THE TIMES

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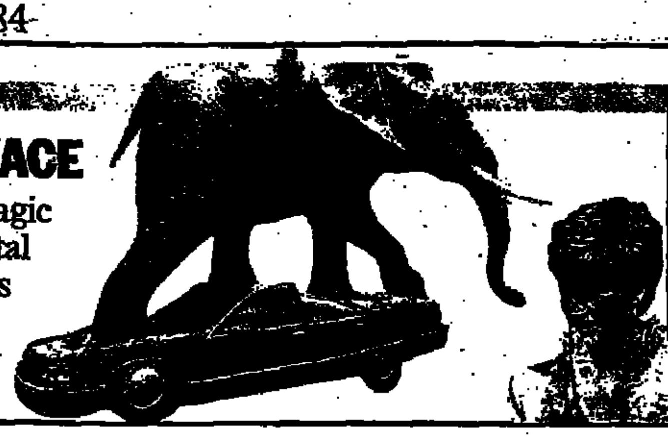

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Blair fights to repair Labour split over Harman

By Philip Webster and Jill Sherman

TONY BLAIR was struggling to contain the most serious breakdown of party discipline under his leadership last night after staking his authority on keeping Harriet Harman in his frontbench team.

Labour is now split at all levels over whether she should remain as Shadow Health Secretary, and the issue of her son's education has turned into one about Mr Blair's control of his party.

The Labour leader has given her his outright backing, but his deputy, John Prescott, is deeply unhappy about her decision to send her son to a grammar school and scarcely more pleased about Mr Blair's decision to support her.

Although Mr Prescott's office denied that he and Mr Blair had had a row, a curt statement suggested less than wholehearted endorsement. He said: "Tony Blair as leader of the Labour Party has made clear what the position is and I have nothing to add."

This morning Ms Harman will face her internal critics at the Parliamentary Labour Party's weekly meeting, where she will explain her decision to send her son to St Olave's school in Orpington and voice regret for the trouble it has caused Mr Blair and the party.

Then she will confront her Tory tormentors in a Commons debate on the health service, which some Labour MPs have threatened to boycott in protest at her move, which many have labelled hypocritical.

Yesterday, her choice of school for 11-year-old Joseph gave Mr Blair his darkest day since he took charge and a confident John Major one of his best. The Prime Minister was roared on by Tory MPs as he taunted Mr Blair with a mocking paraphrase of his anti-crime slogan, telling him that he was to be "tough on hypocrisy and tough on the causes of hypocrisy".

Mr Blair conceded that he was under pressure but added that the difference between him and Mr Major was that he would not "buckle under it".

While Labour MPs said that Mr Blair had performed as well as could be expected, they admitted that the party had suffered its most torrid mauling for many months. They watched gloomily as the Tories gleefully seized on Mr Blair's discomfort, and the stony-faced Mr Prescott made little attempt to hide his feelings.

Mr Blair nevertheless gave Ms Harman his "unequivocal" backing last night and close aides said that he expected Labour MPs to close ranks behind her in the face of "squalid hounding" by the Conservatives.

For most of yesterday, however, Ms Harman's most visible opponents were in her party. Several frontbenchers criticised her privately and said she should go, while her Shadow Cabinet allies were noticeable by their absence from Westminster corridors and none publicly defended her.

Doug Hoyle, chairman of the parliamentary party, went to see Mr Blair on Monday night to warn him of the extent of MPs' anger, and a number of MPs openly called for her resignation yesterday. Terry Lewis MP for Worsley, accused her of "hypocrisy of the highest order", adding: "I think she should resign and shouldn't have hesitated one minute."

Ms Harman, who spent yesterday in her office working on her speech for today's debate, was said to be shellshocked, and members of Mr Blair's close circle were deeply dispirited. "After all we have done to tighten up our act, today we have looked like a rabble, nothing less," one senior frontbencher told *The Times*. "If we lose our discipline like this we lose everything. It is a disgrace that shadow ministers should behave like this."

Most agreed that it would be impossible for Mr Blair to sack Ms Harman, but some suggested that she should resign. If she were to go now, though, it would be a crippling blow to Mr Blair's leadership. One Shadow Cabinet member said reluctantly that there was no alternative but for her to tough it out. "If she was going to go she should have resigned on Saturday. To resign now would look as if she had been pushed."

Another MP said: "It has become an issue about the Labour Party now. You cannot defend the indefensible. It is better for the party for her to go. Tony won't be able to sack her. She should stand down."

Labour was dealt a further blow yesterday when it emerged that another of the party's MPs has two sons at grammar schools. Tony Wright, the MP for Cannock and Burntwood, has one son at Five Ways School, Bartley Green, and another at Handsworth Grammar School for Boys, Birmingham. Both are strictly selective, with entrance dependent upon an 11-plus exam.

The disclosure took Dr Wright's agent, Mrs Muriel Davis, by surprise. "No doubt some people in the constituency will be upset with him, but we shall talk about this in the party not in the press."

Dr Wright defended himself, saying: "The duty of every parent is to try to give their children a decent education."

Simon Jenkins and Diary page 16
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Major savours joy at the slaughter

ST OLAVE *is the patron saint of Norway, and the sun is said to have eclipsed when they slaughtered him in 1030 near Trondheim: 966 years later, an even greater miracle occured. John Major slaughtered Tony Blair at Westminster.*

Whatever horrors may lie in store for this premier, they will never obliterate the memory. Fifteen short minutes supplied Mr Major with joy of a more concentrated kind than he has relished in a decade. Compared with this, years of misery and frustration seemed as nothing. As he paused to acknowledge the roars of support from the government benches, an expression lit Mr Major's face such as can hardly be seen anywhere but on babies at the breast.

Whatever triumphs may lie in store for Tony Blair, none will quite erase the horror of that same quarter hour. How, after 18 months of cruising in open water at full steam, could he have hit as cruel a rock, as hard, as suddenly, as this? With John Prescott's face beside him black as thunder and, from the backbenches behind, the silence that claws into a man's back, the Opposition Leader's countenance, pale, jaw working, was a study in cold rage.

Matthew Parris

People will write that Mr Major put in a champion performance but, such was the mood, he could have recited *Three Blind Mice* and sounded deadly. As for Mr Blair, there was nothing he could say. Kenneth Baker almost gargled his welcome (for Harriet Harman) to

Continued on page 2, col 1

Granada ends Forte era with £3.8bn bid victory

By Alasdair Murray

GRANADA yesterday sealed victory in the £3.8 billion battle for control of Forte, ending the Forte family's 60-year reign at the hotels, roadside cafe and restaurant company they founded.

Granada, the leisure and television company, secured the acceptances of 67 per cent of shareholders, giving the company a surprisingly comfortable win in what had been one of the hardest fought bid battles of recent years.

A jubilant Gerry Robinson, chief executive of Granada, expressed his delight at the outcome but praised the defence put up by the Forte family. He said: "Sir Rocco and his colleagues put up a powerful and spirited defence. Our job now is to take full advantage of the potential for the benefit of existing and new shareholders alike."

A subdued Sir Rocco put on a brave face as he left his headquarters at High Holborn in central London to contemplate an uncertain future. He said: "Naturally we are all disappointed but I am proud of the people of Forte and their commitment which has created such a value for shareholders. I would like to thank them and all those who have supported us, both inside and outside the company."

He added: "This was a battle between two opposing philosophies. We have lost the bid — I do not believe that we have lost the argument."

Of Granada's success he said: "People liked the money. What lost it? At the end of the day, the value of the bid. I think we will have a lot of happy shareholders out there."

The Granada team knew for certain that it had passed the 50 per cent threshold needed for a successful takeover at 2.30pm. The company dismissed suggestions that a decision by Mercury Asset Management — which holds 14 per cent of Forte shares — to throw its weight behind the Granada bid had clinched the deal.

Mr Robinson refused to comment on the immediate future for Sir Rocco and his staff but said that Granada's management would meet their Forte counterparts. It is unlikely, however, that Sir Rocco will continue at the company.

Forte: battle between two philosophies

Sir Rocco and his family do have the consolation of an 8.4 per cent stake in Forte worth around £300 million. Sir Rocco's personal stake is worth about £50 million, although he increased that stake last Friday, having borrowed £14 million to buy a further 0.4 per cent of the shares. But he is

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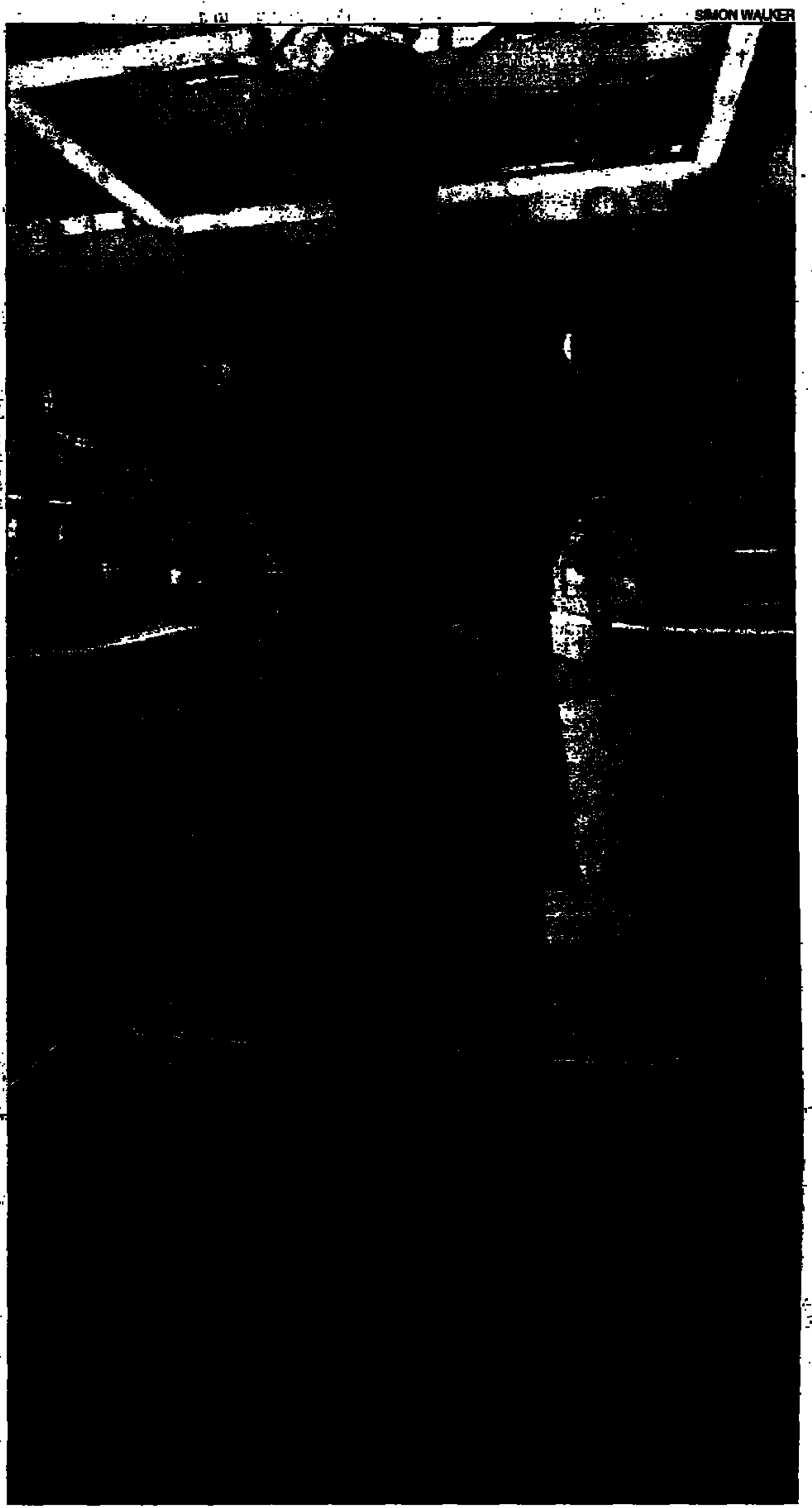
SIMON WALKER



Under new management: Granada may sell Forte's 68 per cent Savoy group stake

Rape charge over schoolgirl 'bride'

A Turkish waiter who "married" a 13-year-old British girl was charged with rape and holding her by force yesterday. Musa Komeagae, 18, was detained in custody overnight in southeast Turkey and will appear before a judge today.

Sarah Cook, from Braintree, Essex, is understood to have had a medical examination by a police doctor after accompanying her husband to the public prosecutor's office..........Page 5

First novel wins Whitbread Prize

A first novel by Kate Atkinson last night won the £21,000 Whitbread Book of the Year award.

The Moor's Last Sigh by Salman Rushdie had been heavily tipped to take the prize, presented at a dinner in London. Kate Atkinson's *Behind The Scenes at the Museum* was chosen after an hour's debate by the nine judges.

Britain told to drop IRA gun demands

By Nicholas Watt, Ireland Correspondent

BRITAIN will come under pressure today to drop its insistence that the IRA must begin to disarm before all-party talks when the International Commission on Terrorist Arms reports that the demand is impractical.

In one of the peace process's most important developments, the commission is expected to recommend instead that a gesture on arms could be made by terrorists once all-party talks have started.

Its carefully worded report, to be published in Belfast this morning, balances its position on arms by recommending political parties would help the peace process by agreeing to a series of confidence-building measures.

It is understood the most important of those would be an undertaking to accept the outcome of all-party negotiations. The Commission is expected to add that any party rejecting an agreement reached at talks should undertake to oppose it by peaceful and political methods.

George Mitchell, the commission chairman, and his two colleagues, are understood to have taken great care in the wording of the 20-page report. They deliberately do not lay down demands, hoping to win wide support.

The British and Irish Governments, which appointed the commission in November, are expected to issue a joint statement today. Sir Patrick Mayhew, Northern Ireland Secretary, is likely to give it a cautious welcome in a Commons statement.

John Major and senior ministers studied the report at a Cabinet committee meeting yesterday.

INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY magazine awards

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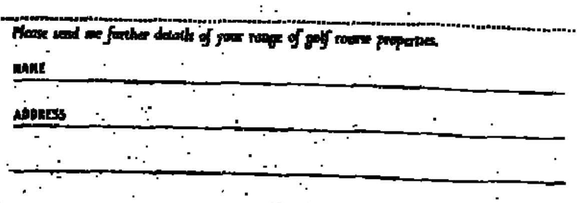

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TIM 24/01

Another two staff walk out on the Princess

By Alan Hamilton

TWO more employees of the Princess of Wales left their jobs yesterday as she began the search for a new private secretary to replace Patrick Jephson, who walked out on Monday.

The Princess now has only two secretarial staff after the resignation yesterday afternoon of Nicky Cockell, 32, who had been employed at St James's Palace to help Mr Jephson.

Stephen Davis, 31, the Princess's regular chauffeur, also announced that he was leaving on the expiry of his contract, reducing her domestic staff to a cook, butler and dresser. Palace sources said that the Princess had little need of a driver now that she had cut down her public engagements, but one would always be available to take her to an official function.

The loss of her staff will come as an additional body-blow to a woman already reeling from the punches of impending divorce, hounding by photographers, and a solicitor's letter from Tiggy Legge-Bourke, her estranged husband's personal assistant.

The Princess increasingly appears a lonely and isolated figure, and while Buckingham Palace indicated that it was prepared to help with the day-to-day running of her public life, she is being left to replace her private staff herself. Anyone she takes on will be paid by the Duchy of Cornwall.

An announcement is expected tomorrow that she has hired a part-time media adviser to handle her press relations under a contract believed to be worth £35,000 a year.

The Princess's diary is much lighter than it once was, but she still has two high-profile appearances in the next two weeks: a lunch with American journalists on Monday and as guest of honour at a gala performance of *La Bohème* at the Albert Hall on February 1.

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Upbeat Clarke sees return of the 'feel-good' factor

Clarke: standing by forecast of 3 per cent growth this year

By Nicholas Wood
Chief Political Correspondent

KENNETH CLARKE yesterday predicted the return of the "feel-good" factor this year as he set the stage for a special Cabinet session today devoted to rebuilding Conservative fortunes. In one of his most upbeat assessments of the state of the economy, the Chancellor stood by his widely criticised Budget forecast of 3 per cent growth this year.

He looked to rising consumer demand driven by tax cuts and building society windfalls to lift clouds that have descended again with the slowdown in national output in the final quarter of 1995. Addressing the British-American Chamber of Commerce in London, Mr Clarke conceded that consumer demand had not been powering the economy over the past two years.

"This is rare for the British economy. It gives rise to all the chatter about the so-called 'feel-good' factor. Increased consumer spending should be the main source of growth in the economy as a whole this year."

Mr Clarke voiced his optimism as John Major prepared to gather his Cabinet together today for a half-day meeting that will concentrate on the need for the Government to start reaping a political dividend from the much-anticipated rise in living standards. The "political Cabinet" was called earlier this month amid renewed Tory turmoil, but the mood of ministers has been transformed in recent days by Labour's confusion over Harriet Harman.

Mr Major boasted in the Commons yesterday that the British economy was outperforming its European neighbours. Today he will put the Cabinet on a war footing for the next election by urging his ministers to trumpet the Government's economic achievements and redouble their attacks on Labour.

He will also tell them that he wants them to use their speeches to the Conservative Central Council meeting in Harrogate in March to help him begin fleshing out a vision for a fifth consecutive term in power. Although the spring of next year remains Mr Major's preferred election date, he knows the party must be ready to go to the country from the autumn onwards.

Even before Labour's crisis over education, Mr Major was encouraged by the impact of the Conservative counter-offensive against Tony Blair's stakeholder economy idea. He will tell his colleagues they should spend less time in their departments and more time on television and radio programmes highlighting the Government's economic achievements.

Mr Clarke said that he expected consumer demand to grow by 3½ per cent this year as it was boosted by a combination of £3 billion tax cuts, building society windfalls and maturing Tessas, electricity rebates of £54 per customer and an upturn in the housing market. Pundits doubting his growth target "will be proved wrong".

In a Commons clash with Mr Blair yesterday, the Prime Minister accused him of "perverting" the truth for partisan purposes. The Labour leader said that the latest CBI survey showed that orders were flat while other figures showed that living standards had fallen last year for the first time in 12 years.

The Prime Minister retorted that Britain had the "lowest levels of inflation for 50 years, lowest mortgage rates for 30, lowest unemployment of any major European country, [and] the lowest basic rate of tax for over 50 years".

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Cooling-off period will be extended

Mackay agrees to give divorcing couples more time

By Frances Gibb, legal correspondent

THE Lord Chancellor has agreed to extend the "cooling-off" period for divorcing couples to give them more time to make arrangements for their children and to meet criticisms from peers opposed to his reforms.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern is standing by the central provision of his Family Law Bill to allow divorce within 12 months if couples have agreed arrangements for children and property.

But in what critics see as a significant concession, Lord Mackay has agreed to give couples up to two years' where they have difficulties in reaching such arrangements within the 12 months.

The change will defuse charges that the Government's divorce reforms put couples under the pressure of a tight timetable to agree on children and property which can be used by one party as a bargaining counter.

Under the Bill as drafted, couples who cannot agree on arrangements within the 12-month "cooling-off" period are given a further six months. A divorce will not be granted until this is done. If they fail after the further six months, divorce proceedings have to be abandoned and the process must be started again.

In response to an amendment tabled by Lord Meston, Lord Mackay said: "It may well be that the period that we put forward, a total of 18 months (12, then a further six) is too short. I believe there could be some intermediate position."

The further 12 months suggested by Lord Meston seemed "an intermediate and therefore possibly attractive position". Lord Mackay said that he would consider bringing forward a government amendment at report stage to that effect.

The change will ease the pressure on couples to reach agreement on children and property within the previous time limits of 18 months' maximum.

Jonathan Evans, junior minister at the Lord Chancellor's Department, said: "The Solicitors' Family Law Association and other practitioners have argued that the six-month period in the Bill was inadequate to settle all arrangements in relation to children and property.

"We are very anxious to ensure that a proper period of time is put forward for these negotiations to be concluded."

Under the amendments, he added, there would be a minimum of 12 months for a divorce but a maximum of two years for arrangements to be sorted out. "I believe that is something on which there will be broad agreement and I cannot imagine that the critics of the Bill will be other than pleased."

Nigel Shepherd, chairman of the Solicitors' Family Law Association, said he was delighted with the change, which the association had recommended.

"The 18-month time scale amounted to a straitjacket which was likely to encourage people to rush into settlements, act as a bargaining chip for the more unscrupulous and would have been unachievable in many cases where there are complex issues to be resolved, particularly given the state of many county court lists."

A group of Tory peers oppose the divorce reforms, which remove the notion of fault from divorce laws, arguing that they will undermine the institution of marriage.

NEWSTEAM

Tory councillors voted with Labour members to remove "Citizen Dave" Church

Walsall's Labour rebels are ousted

By Ian Murray

CONSERVATIVES in Walsall have joined forces with official Labour Party councillors to oust 15 rebel leftwingers from control of the council.

A stormy meeting of the full council on Monday voted by 28 to 20 to depose "Citizen Dave" Church as leader and replace him with Ray Farrell, who heads the 19-strong official Labour Party group. John Rothery, Mr Church's deputy, was replaced by Brian John, another member of the official group, whose members will now chair all council committees. The 20-strong Conservative group was allowed a free vote and nine opted to vote against Mr Church while the rest abstained.

Mike Bird, the Tory leader, said: "It suits me to have Councillor Farrell as leader and the Labour members at each others' throats. This shows what would happen across the country if, God forbid, there should ever be a Labour government."

Before the vote Mr Church had made a vain appeal for all the 34 elected Labour councillors to vote together. He said: "Let's hold the Labour Party together and fight the common enemy."

The 15 rebels, who were backed by the five Liberal Democrats, have all been suspended by the party nationally on the grounds that they have formed a party of their own.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prisons must cut £200m

Prisoners face a diet of cold cuts and salads after governors were urged to slash energy consumption in jail kitchens by 30 per cent as part of a £200 million cost-cutting drive. Jails are also being urged to instal gas and electricity meters in their kitchens after a report found that dramatic savings could be made.

Governors have also been advised to time meetings to allow staff to use off-peak fares and avoid the necessity of overnight accommodation.

Dissident stands

Muhammad al-Masari, the Saudi dissident who is under threat of deportation, is to stand for the rectorship of the University of Glasgow. He has been nominated by the university's Liberal Democrat students' association for the honorary post.

Scene stealer

***Behind the Scenes*, a first novel by Kate Atkinson, has confounded the pundits to scoop the £21,000 Whitbread Book of the Year award ahead of the hot favourite, *The Moor's Last Sigh*, Salman Rushdie's first novel since *The Satanic Verses*.**

TV drive-in

A motorist was fined £75 by Birmingham magistrates for watching television on a set balanced on his dashboard. Allan Wolstenholme, 44, of Swinton, Manchester, a television engineer, said the set was turned off and that the police had seen reflections.

Benefit arrests

Police believe they may have cracked a £500,000 benefit fraud ring after arresting 47 people in Operation Bomber, a series of dawn raids at addresses in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Northamptonshire, Birmingham, and South Yorkshire.

Boutique fined

The Versace boutique in Bond Street was described as a "death trap" and fined £4,000 for breaching fire regulations. The London Fire Brigade said that the shop's owners had refused to comply with an order to clear rubbish and to repair fire doors.

Flight of fancy

A racing pigeon that failed to return to its Dorset loft after being released in Rennes, northern France, two years ago has turned up more than 3,000 miles away in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Its owner was traced through the bird's racing tag.

10p court order

Paul Paterson, 24, of Redcar, Cleveland, who clashed with police when crossing a road at night with his fiancée, was bound over for 10p to keep the peace for 24 hours. He told Teesside magistrates that a speeding patrol car came to a halt only inches from them.

CORRECTIONS

☐ Out of 674 ITN staff 183 voted for industrial action (report, yesterday): nearly 500 staff members did not vote for action or do not belong to a union.

☐ A photograph published yesterday was of the three grandchildren of the late Lord Home of the Hirsel: Lord Dunglass, Lady Iona Douglas-Home and Lady Mary Douglas-Home

Civil servants 'must be more numerate'

By Nigel Williamson
Whitehall correspondent

SENIOR civil servants need to be more numerate, Michael Heseltine said last night, announcing reforms designed to attract a new breed of Whitehall mandarin paid at rates competitive with the private sector.

Speaking at a seminar organised by the Civil Service College, Mr Heseltine told an audience of senior civil servants: "Far too often in my ministerial career I have been presented with 20 pages of words when one page of figures or a graph would suffice." Too many civil servants were "more inclined to qualify rather than simply quantify the arguments," Mr Heseltine said. "Greater numeracy" rather than superfluous words was needed.

Mr Heseltine signalled the continuation of the revolution in Whitehall which has created agencies and contracting out. He said that he would publish a White Paper soon that would "look forward to the day when it will become the norm for those entering the senior Civil Service to have a recognised professional qualification".

High-flying recruits from the private sector would need to be better paid than current civil servants, Mr Heseltine said. Civil Service pay needed "greater differentiation with better rewards for those who contribute most."

He said that new, professional recruits would also be expected to adopt a more public — and potentially political — profile than civil servants in the past. "We must ensure that all senior staff are equipped to present and explain policy convincingly to a variety of outisde audiences," he said.

Mr Heseltine also announced that the Government planned to introduce league tables allowing the public to compare the performance of its Next Steps agencies. The announcement follows considerable public concern over the performance of such bodies as the Child Support Agency and the Prison Service.

Granada's victory

Continued from page 1

also entitled to severance pay on his one-year service contract worth around £460,000 and holds share options with a potential profit of £430,000.

There are reports that the family may buy into another smaller group of hotels. Sir Rocco, described by staff as a workaholic usually putting in a six-day week, has expressed a wish to write a journal of the frantic last few weeks.

The future for the 270 staff at the Forte headquarters, some of whom have worked for the company for more than 20 years, is also uncertain. The staff had heard the news via one of the twice-daily bulletins which have kept them updated throughout the takeover battle.

Granada plans meetings with all levels of Forte staff over the next few days and insisted yesterday that it would not launch a jobs purge within the company in a desperate effort to cut costs. Mr Robinson said that a full review of Forte would begin in the next few days and that job cuts would be concentrated on Forte's head office. Uncertainty also surrounds the future of many of Forte's prize assets. Granada has said that it wants to sell off upmarket hotels such as the Waldorf in London and the Exclusive and Meridien chains, along with Forte's 68 per cent stake in the Savoy group.

Granada announced that there had been interest from "half a dozen" parties. Mr Robinson also reiterated Granada's intentions to sell off Forte's chain of Welcome Break motorway service stations. But he added: "This is not a break-up. We want to retain 80 per cent of the earning capacity and by far and away the majority of the employees."

Until the plans are finalised Forte will continue to be run from its London headquarters.

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Major savours joy at the moment of slaughter

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"stakeholding" in education. Major almost trilled his reply. It was Blair's bad luck that by custom he must be next to rise.

He rose. The Government benches began laughing before he spoke. Adopting the expression of St Joan as they torched the pyre, the Labour leader cried: "We see the baying mob!"

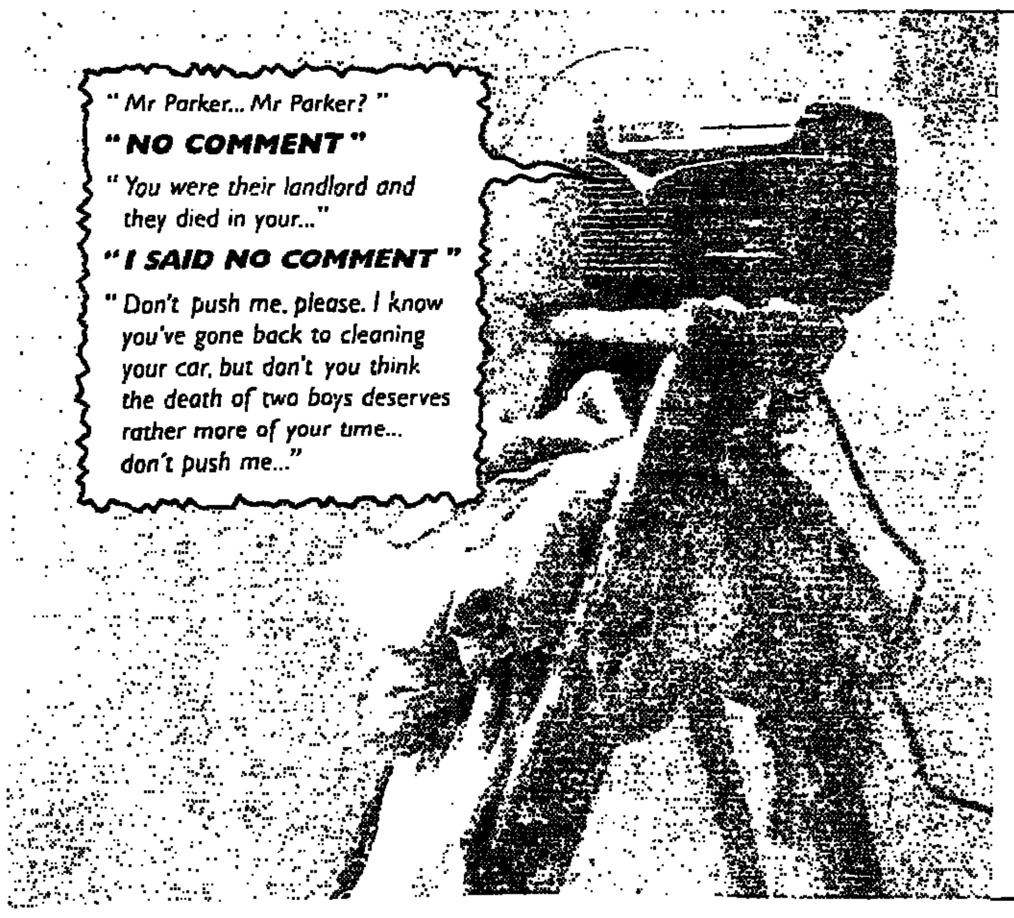
We did. We heard them, too. Unlike Mr Blair, St Joan never had to face David Evans (C, Welwyn Hatfield) bawling: "Wot abaht St Olave's? Wot abaht the Oratory?" Unlike St Joan, Mr Blair then asked about the CBI. It was not a question which met the need of the hour. The mob were beginning to enjoy themselves. Major asked Blair to accept his sympathy.

Blair said thanks for the sympathy, then snapped: "The difference between me and you is that I will not buckle under pressure," confirming a number of MPs in their doubts about his suitability for Number 10. You could see the smirking Tory front bench tucking that remark into their mental files, for future use. John Prescott's face turned a darker shade of ebony.

"Smile, John" shouted the Tories. Prescott's lip twitched very slightly, as though a spider were trying to get out. "Wot abaht the grammar schools?" bellowed Evans, the first recorded occasion when grammar and Mr Evans have shared a sentence.

Douglas French (C, Gloucester) pitched in with a faintly unsavoury question about black Lego-men. Frightful in victory and frightful in defeat, the Tory Party at least concentrate in defeat on being frightful to each other. In victory they start being frightful to everyone else. Major accepted Mr French's offering rather as one accepts a partially disembowelled mouse on the doorstep, from the cat.

But then Mr Major is not a Tory. This represents his one hope of winning the next election. Tony Blair is, and won't "buckle under pressure". This represents Labour's greatest peril.



" Mr Parker... Mr Parker? "
" NO COMMENT "
" You were their landlord and they died in your..."
" I SAID NO COMMENT "
" Don't push me, please. I know you've gone back to cleaning your car, but don't you think the death of two boys deserves rather more of your time... don't push me..."

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[هكذا من الأعلام]

Toytown will become small-scale answer to Disneyland in copyright deal worth £13m

Enid Blyton's family sells Noddy and Big Ears

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

THE family of Enid Blyton, whose centenary falls next year, has sold the copyright to her books for £13 million.

The rights to classics such as *Noddy* and *The Famous Five* have been acquired by Trocadero plc, co-owners of the Trocadero entertainment centre in central London. A marketing drive aims to catapult some of her most famous characters to international stardom, with Toytown offering Britain's answer to the merchandising power of Disney.

Children will be able to meet Noddy and shake hands with Big Ears at the Trocadero, before persuading their parents to buy them Blyton clothes, wallpaper, confectionary, computer games and much more. Film and television programmes are also in the pipeline.

Enid Blyton would have approved. In the 1950s, she was already overseeing a mass of Noddy items, everything from toys and torches to slippers and dressing-gowns.

Merchandising and spinoffs are a goldmine for companies that own the copyright to children's books, cartoons and films. *Tin-Tin* and *Batman* are among dozens of children's favourites which have generated a wealth of ideas and profits for those creating them. The merchandise produced after the 1989 *Batman* movie has brought in some £500 million.

The *Thomas the Tank Engine* industry is also vast, creating a £1 billion worldwide market for its licensees. There is a bedroom collection, children's clothing, toothbrushes and mugs.

There is no end to the merchandising ideas in a business which Disney is said to have invented.

Long since it came up with Mickey Mouse watches in the 1930s, Disney offers moccasins, headdresses, pillowcases and pencil cases for *Pocahontas* and *The Lion King*, selling them through their stores worldwide. The Blyton venture will be part of the £45 million Trocadero centre, which is being renovated for a summer opening as an indoor theme park. The family will retain editorial control with Gillian Baverstock, Blyton's eldest daughter, becoming a director.

Blyton has recently enjoyed a revival of interest, as criticism of her stories as sexist, racist and politically incorrect has waned. There was, example, concern that Big Ears would affect people with physical abnormalities and that he should be renamed White Beard.

The copyright package had been expected to fetch about £10 million, but it was virtually impossible to set an estimate for an author whose books sell more than eight million annually worldwide. The sale includes copyright for more than 700 of Blyton's books and some 10,000 short stories.

Enid Blyton, left, did not like children to make any noise while she wrote her Famous Five adventures

Ms Baverstock, who closely resembles her mother and who is organising celebrations for the 1997 centenary, emphasised that the storylines and characters in Trocadero products would remain "as my mother wrote them".

Like her mother, Ms Baverstock was a teacher. Whenever she was faced with a poor reader in her class, she used to bring in her mother's books: "Within a couple of terms, I could get them up to standard. They were excellent for remedial reading, because the children wanted to continue reading."

Enid Blyton learnt the art of telling stories to children and gauged their concentration spans and vocabulary levels during her seven years as a teacher.

Ms Baverstock said yesterday that she did not recognise the portrait of her mother painted by Blyton's youngest daughter, Imogen.

In 1989 Imogen disclosed that her mother was unable to tell the difference between her servants and her children and that while writing books she resented her children making a noise. Blyton, who died in 1968, once told her agent that her books were her children.

"My relationship with my mother was very different from Imogen's," Ms Baverstock recalled. "I didn't notice when we were children that she viewed her any differently. Maybe she always hid it. As a young child, I had a very close and happy relationship with my mother.

"A writer needs time and space to write and my mother was no exception. She didn't want to be interrupted by children running in all day long, demanding drinks." She added that like most middle-class children, she had a nanny: "But in the 1930s, most families I knew did." Her mother told her stories every night, stories she had written. Often, she would sing, particularly old folk songs, and they played games together.

Ms Baverstock has fought off political correctness, though she conceded that Golliwog was inappropriate for a multi-cultural society. She said: "There was nothing racist about it. It was once a toy in an English nursery, just like a teddy bear." She lamented the passing of an innocent world, a world untainted by adults.

Norman Wright, a founder of the Enid Blyton literary society, welcomed the news as long as Ms Baverstock retained control. He expressed concern that once copyright was acquired, new stories could be ghost-written.

MICHAEL POWELL

Gillian Baverstock, Blyton's daughter, with a Noddy lookalike. The Blyton family will retain editorial control

Leading article, page 17
Tempus, page 28

Scarborough set fair with £10m bequest

By Bill Frost

A BUSINESSMAN who died last November has left nearly £10 million to be spent on worthy causes in Scarborough, the North Yorkshire seaside town he loved. One of Eric Plaxton's only stipulations was that a new lifeboat should be bought, and maintained at an estimated cost of £1.25 million.

The boat will be named after his father Frederick, who founded the family coach building business in 1906. Mr Plaxton always loved the sea and the lifeboat service. He was said to admire the crews for their courage.

The family business was in construction and later in bus and coach building. It boomed both before and after the war until the coach building recession. Eric Plaxton was a director of that firm and later a director of Plaxton's Building Services which employed about 100 staff.

When keen pricing and increasing competition forced the comnpany into financial difficulties last June, he put £325,000 of his own money into the firm to try to save it. The effort was not successful, even though the company was noted for its high building standards.

Mr Plaxton also left £10,000 to his gardener and long-time friend, Maurice Mason. Two other local people are also to receive legacies under the terms of the will.

However, the balance, an estimated £8 million, will go to "charitable causes" in Scarborough (population 53,000). A list is being drawn up by two of Mr Plaxton's friends — John Parkinson, who works for a law firm in the town, and John Oates, a local accountant. They have been granted probate and will have to decide which charities will benefit.

"There is no shortage of good causes here," said Mr Parkinson last night. "It will be our responsibility to decide which are the most worthy."

Mr Parkinson fully expected considerable interest in the bequest from a number of different organisations.

"I wouldn't be surprised if there wasn't quite a large post from now on," he said. "But these are early days. We haven't even begun to consider who the money might go to, so don't ask me."

Mr Plaxton, 75 when he died, never married, nor did his late elder sister Gladys. The pair used to take ocean cruises together.

He lived not far from Scarborough South Cliff golf club, playing there for 30 years with a handicap that ranged from 10 to 12. He was also a keen snooker player and he enjoyed the occasional rubber of bridge.

His friends described him as an unassuming man of simple tastes who had a good sense of humour. He was said to be "shy, but well liked".

Mr Plaxton also took a paternal interest in his staff. When the family firm, which employed about 100 staff, was in financial difficulties last June he ploughed £325,000 of his own money in a failed rescue attempt.

The coach-body building firm of Plaxtons became part of the Henley group eight years ago and is still in business.

Stammerer shot himself

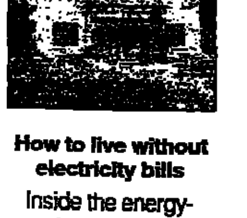
THE family of a graduate who shot himself because of his stammer launched a campaign yesterday to raise awareness of the plight of those with speech impediments.

Dominic Barker, 26, who had a master's degree in agricultural economics, killed himself 15 months ago after spending a year unsuccessfully seeking a job. He blamed his failure at interviews on his stammer. His parents, Alan and Helen Barker, of Holbrook, Suffolk, and his grandfather, Leslie King, of Felixstowe, yesterday appeared on Esther Rantzen's BBC2 programme *Esther* to talk about Dominic's death.

Mr King said: "Almost everyone knows somebody who stammers. To the person involved, a stammer can be the most terrible thing in their life." When he wrote to Esther Rantzen, "she phoned me back and said she was very interested because her husband, Desmond Wilcox, had been a stammerer".

Mr Barker's mother said the family had had no idea that her son's stammer was causing him so much unhappiness. "The full extent only became apparent from what he had told his girlfriend and his speech therapist. He must have been very distressed."

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES



How to live without electricity bills
Inside the energy-saving eco house, in **Weekend**

No votes for women
Why female candidates can't win, in the **Magazine**

PLUS
Weekend Money, Car 96, 1015 for young Times readers and **Vision**, the seven-day TV and radio guide

Ex-judge tells of gory last request

By Tim Jones

A FORMER Old Bailey judge described yesterday how his father, who had a horror of being buried alive, ordered him and his brothers to make sure he was dead by plunging a long knife into his body.

Judge Michael Argyle, who presided over the Oz obscenity trial of the early 1970s, said another distant relative had insisted his heart be removed before burial. Mr Argyle, QC, said his father's fears stemmed from his experience in both world wars.

In a letter to his local newspaper Mr Argyle, 81, said: "Throughout both wars he saw a lot of action and had a horror, based on his experience, of being buried alive." Yesterday, Mr Argyle said: "My father died peacefully in a nursing home without us present so his wishes were never put to the test. I do not know whether we would have carried them out. Fortunately, it is a hypothetical question."

He said he did not share his father's fears. "My wish is to die suddenly and without warning as I am sipping a large whisky," he said. Mr Argyle said his father had been haunted by the thought of dying slowly in the grave after an incident in which he saw a coffin reopened to reveal the corpse's torn nails, blood-stained fingers and scratch marks on the coffin lid.

Mr Argyle made his comments after the case of Daphne Banks, who was certified dead by a doctor but who was found to be alive in the hospital mortuary. He said he was attracted by the idea of the Irish wake when bodies were laid in open coffins for a few days "while relatives pay their respects and enjoy a drink".

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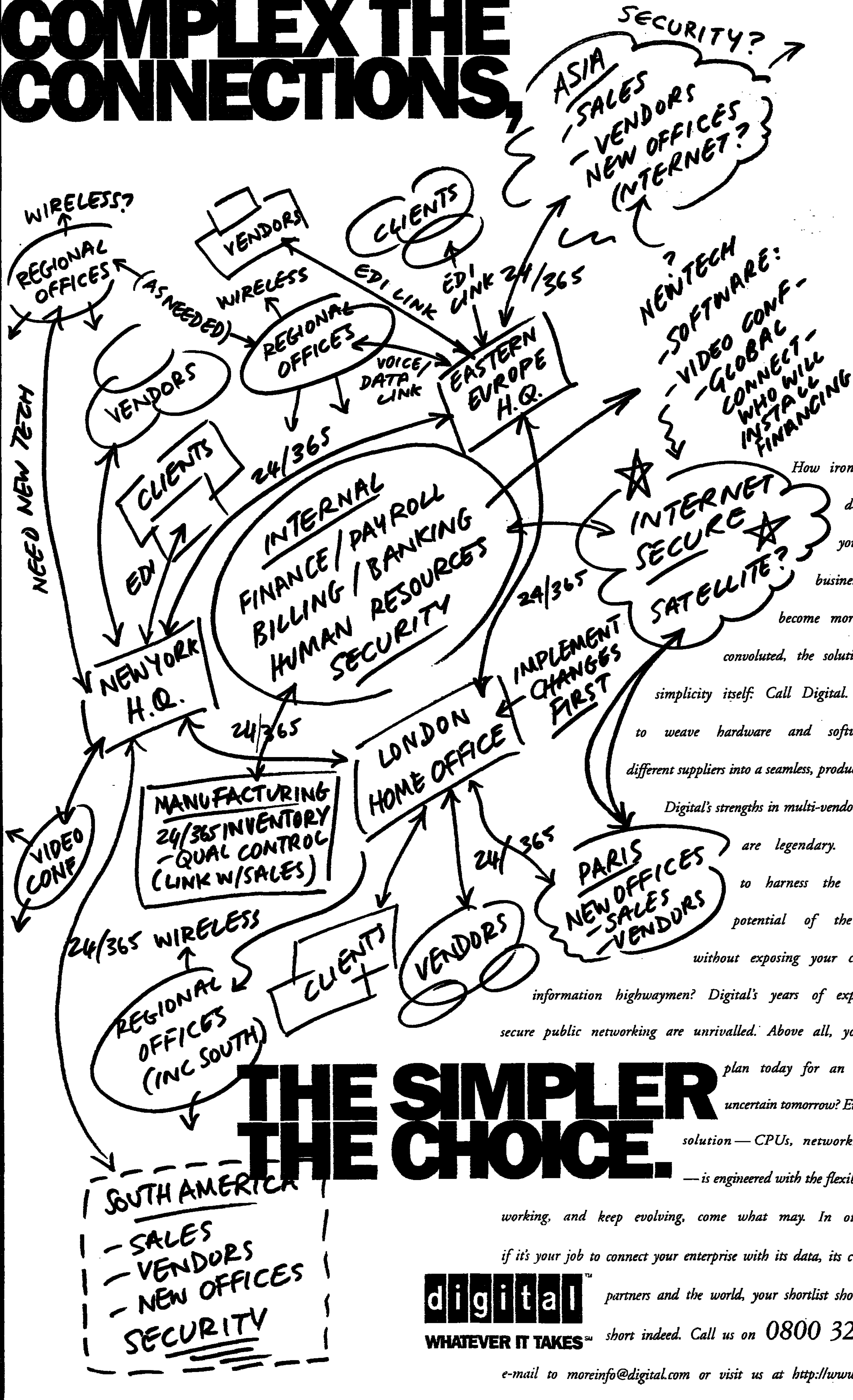

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ابعدوا من الأهل

Priest questioned by police after arrest of teenager who met his sweetheart on summer holiday

Turks charge waiter with rape of schoolgirl bride

By Michael Horsnell

A TURKISH waiter who "married" a 13-year-old British girl was charged with rape and holding her by force yesterday. Musa Komeagae, 18, was detained in custody overnight and will appear before a judge today.

Police at Kahramanmaras in southeast Turkey were also questioning the priest who conducted the marriage service, which is not valid in Turkish law. Sarah Cook, from Braintree, Essex, is understood to have had a medical examination by a police doctor after accompanying her husband to the public prosecutor's office. Trudi Pak, the British vice-consul in Ankara, is flying to see her today.

Mrs Pak, who spoke to Sarah by telephone several times yesterday, said the teenager had become upset. "When I spoke to her earlier she sounded fine, but the last time we spoke she had talked to her mother and it had distressed her," she said.

It seems likely that Sarah, who is on a tourist visa, will have to return to Britain where it is understood she will become the subject of immediate care proceedings. Sarah's parents were questioned for two hours by social workers yesterday and last night flew to Turkey. Adrian and Jackie Cook say they were deceived over the girl's relationship with the young Turk whom she met at the age of 12 while with her parents in Alanya, southern Turkey, during their summer holiday.

The Foreign Office said: "Sarah understands she may need to return to the UK because of the charges that have been laid. She was present with him at the prosecutor's office but was not interviewed. She has returned to his family for the time being. Sarah's interest is of paramount importance to us. Our concern is for her welfare."

A lawyer for the unemployed waiter said his client would apply to have the case heard at a higher court. He will claim the girl consented to the relationship. Under Turkish law, a woman has to be at least 15 to be able to wed legally with parental consent. Men can marry at 17. Sex with anyone under 15 is illegal even if it is with consent.

Selim Surmen, Mr Komeagae's lawyer, said: "Sarah has said she will love Musa until death. There is no force used in this relationship. We'll appeal for his release."

He faces a maximum penalty of three years in prison and the Turkish authorities could also order Sarah to return to Britain. The Turkish Embassy said: "She is a British tourist visiting Turkey with her parents. Her visa allows Sarah to stay in our country for up to 90 days."

Mr Cook, 42, a welder, and his wife, who gave the union their blessing and attended a marriage ceremony, emerged grim-faced from their meeting with social workers and resolutely refused to comment.

But earlier, on hearing of developments in Turkey, Mrs Cook, 39, said tearfully: "Oh my God! Poor Sarah! They are not allowed to examine her without my permission. Poor Musa! They can't put him in jail. I haven't lost a daughter. I have gained a fabulous son-in-law. Now this has happened."

Mrs Cook defended the decision to allow her daughter to marry and said the relationship was neither illegal nor immoral. "The question of marriage was a bit of a shock at first and allowing it to go ahead was a big decision. We said yes because she was so . . . not headstrong, but she decided that this was what she wanted."

Before the arrest of her husband, Sarah said: "I'm treated better here than in England. I love him more than words can say. He is the sweetest man I have ever seen." She told her parents: "Thank you for being the sweetest people I have ever seen and for going through all this. I love you."

At her semi-detached home, a former council house close to the school where she was in her third year, Sarah has turned her bedroom into a shrine to Musa. In felt-tip pen on the white wardrobe, she has written "I love Musa" and on the wall are the words "Musa is the man for me."

Her devotion, however, has bemused and angered social workers. Colin Davis, Essex County Council's spokesman, said: "Sarah and her parents both categorically denied there was a sexual relationship when we spoke to them in December before the marriage, not least, they said, because of the man's religion. He is a Muslim. We did not know about the marriage until we read about it in the papers."

Sarah failed to return to Tabor High School after half-term last November and education welfare officers called in social workers. They were told by Mr and Mrs Cook that she was being looked after *in loco parentis* by Mr Komeagae's parents.

Sarah returned for Christmas before flying out again on December 27. Mr Davis said: "Our understanding was that she was going on a temporary basis to stay in Turkey. The parents had given their consent. She has not been in our care. If she were in this country, there would be a number of options. It could be a question of care proceedings."

THE TURKISH VIEW

Turkey is not sure what to make of this star-crossed couple and the attention they are attracting abroad, although clearly there is some sympathy for the way they have been pursued (Andrew Finkel in Istanbul writes). "Two children share a grown-up love" was the headline in the daily newspaper *Sabah*.

Mr Komeagae faces between six months and three years in prison for violating a minor. Had Miss Cook been Turkish the case might not have gone to court, given the fact that her parents approve of the match. Even so, there have been recent controversial cases of girls having to endure virginity tests, with women's groups protesting against the indignity.

While some Turkish girls do undergo a traditional marriage at a young age, it is a dying practice of remote rural areas. What Turks find so bizarre about this case is that it is a Westerner from Essex who appears to have embraced what they see as archaic dress and behaviour.

ARTHUR EDWARDS

Musa Komeagae with Sarah Cook before he was arrested for allegedly holding the schoolgirl against her will

Beck's victims accuse council of negligence

By A Staff Reporter

FRANK BECK, the former social worker jailed for child abuse, used a therapy on children in care that was "mumbo-jumbo and psychobabble", a court was told yesterday.

Seven men and women are suing Leicestershire County Council, Beck's employer between 1973 and 1986, claiming that they suffered abuse at his hands as a result of the authority's negligence. The council contests the action.

Richard Maxwell, QC, for the seven, told the High Court, sitting in Nottingham, that Beck was allowed to continue a "bogus" treatment, known as regression therapy. It involved caring for the children as if they were infants. They were made to wear nappies, drink from feeder bottles and had to have close physical contacts with staff, particularly before they went to bed every night.

But Mr Maxwell called the therapy a "form of torture" and a "mindbending treatment". He said: "These children went into the homes with a history of some disturbance but they were not hopeless cases and given some proper, reasonable treatment, they could have done better, much better than they did."

In one of the three homes in Leicestershire that Beck ran he used a television room as a "punishment" centre. Children were terrified of being taken into the room, the court was told.

Mr Maxwell said that children in the homes were "physically, sexually and psychologically humiliated and violated and manipulated.

"We say the defendants chose not to inquire too deeply into Beck's conduct. That was deliberately done, probably because they were fearful of Beck and probably because he was very useful for them. It enabled them to deal with the children, tidily disposing of them in this way."

In a reference for Beck in 1977 when he applied to attend a course in York, the director of the county's social services department had even described him as "greatly respected by his staff".

The hearing continues.

'Wee Free' churchman to face sex trial

By Gillian Bowditch
Scotland Correspondent

ONE of Scotland's leading fundamentalist churchmen has failed in his attempt to have six charges of sexual assault, involving five women, dropped.

Professor Donald Macleod, 55, of the Free Church of Scotland, will now face a trial in April. The case has shocked and deeply divided the Free Church, whose members are known colloquially as "the Wee Frees".

The charges relate to six incidents said to have taken place between 1985 and 1992. Professor Macleod alleged to have attempted to kiss four women and unbuttoned the blouse of another before fondling her breasts.

Yesterday, in Edinburgh's Sheriff Court, Sheriff Iain Macphail rejected a submission by Andrew Hardie, QC, Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, that the charges against Professor Macleod should be dropped because some of the alleged incidents were said to have taken place more than ten years ago.

What the doctor won't tell you about migraine cure

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

ONE person in ten in Britain suffers from migraine, which is three times more common in women as in men. Another drug, Midrid, has now been made available without a doctor's prescription.

Midrid has been used for many years and is much better tolerated than ergotamine preparations; and even if it is not any more effective in relieving the headaches than ergotamine it is much better at banishing the nausea and vomiting.

Migraine occurs when the blood vessels supplying the brain become abnormally dilated. Any treatment that is effective is designed to constrict the blood vessels and thereby relieve the headache caused by their congestion.

An attack can be triggered by an increase in stress, although surprisingly the symptoms in some people coincide with relaxation of the excessive tension, rather than happening when it is at its height. Migraine can be induced by certain foods but the most common aspect of diet that triggers an attack is starvation: patients liable to migraine should eat regularly and thereby maintain a regular blood sugar level.

Some foods are notorious for stimulating headaches. These include alcohol and the simple rule is that the darker the alcoholic drink the more likely it is to cause migraine and a hangover.

Women often notice that whatever the trigger that stimulates their migraine it is usually worse just before a period. In general it can be said that anything that will bring about a headache will also precipitate a migraine in a susceptible person.

Two types of migraine are usually described. In common migraine the severe headache is accompanied by nausea, with or without vomiting, and photophobia, a dislike of bright lights. In classic migraine the headaches and other symptoms are preceded by an aura, flashing lights before the eyes, partial loss of vision or a loss of sensation in various parts of the body. In both types of migraine the patient may notice that before the migraine attack started they felt particularly jolly and well.

Severe or persistent migraine is not something that should be tolerated without a visit to a doctor but the occasional sufferer may well find that a couple of capsules of Midrid will be all that they need. Their doctor won't tell them but experience has shown that Midrid has another use. It is quite effective in relieving the headache of the hangover.

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End of an era for immigrant Italian family which transformed its fortunes over two generations

The milk bar king who founded an empire worth £3bn

By George Sivell

GRANADA'S victory over Forte brought a sudden end to two generations' work for the family-dominated company. *Almost 61 years ago Charles* Forte, a young Italian immigrant, opened up a solitary milk bar in London's Regent Street with £2,000 he *borrowed.*

Charles had been brought to Britain at the age of five to join his father who opened a cafe in Glasgow then decided to go his own way in London. At the time Lord Forte, now 87, could scarcely have imagined that he would go on to build an empire worth £3.8 billion and that it could be taken away from the family in a *matter of weeks.*

By the start of the Second World War Charles Forte was known as the Milk Bar King but when Italy entered the war *he was briefly interned on the* Isle of Man.

In 1955 Forte won the catering concession for the new London Airport at Heathrow and in 1960 opened Britain's first motorway service station on the newly built M1 at Newport Pagnell. In between times Forte bought its first London hotel, the imposing Waldorf Hotel in London's *Aldwych. The Fortes might* have been cast as philistine immigrants from the catering trade but when the company was floated on the *stockmarket in 1962 Forte* Holdings was oversubscribed 40 times.

Forte used the stockmarket listing well. He bought three top hotels in Paris, including the George V in 1968. In 1970 the company more than doubled its size after a successful attack on the venerable Trust Houses Group.

As the Forte success story grew the immigrant upstart caricature hurt even more and Lord Forte took great pains to explain how he was, at heart, a *high-class hotelier, the best* person in the world to preserve and develop the Trust House hotels, such as the Grosvenor House Hotel in London's Park Lane. However, the Grosvenor House Hotel kept its reputation as the best place in London for large banquets, serving 900 guests with main courses simultaneously, as the same time as Forte became the country's largest operator of roadside eating houses.

Forte was also busy abroad. As Trusthouse Forte it bought the Travelodge budget hotel chain in America and in 1974 opened the first overseas flight kitchen at Orly airport in *Paris. In 1977 it bought the* Knott Hotels Corp in America.

The company's achievements were recognised by a Queen's Award for export achievement in 1980, an honour repeated in 1985 and 1990.

Forte joined in the merger and takeover boom that swept the City in the eighties. It picked up the Imperial Hotel and Catering group in 1986 after Hanson Trust successfully bid for Imperial and built up a joint venture with PepsiCo to operate Kentucky Fried Chicken takeaways in Britain. In the same year Forte *took over the Happy Eater* roadside restaurants.

Lord Forte's son Sir Rocco enjoyed an Oxford education and aspired to the trappings of an country English gent. But his defence of the company got off to a poor start when he was caught shooting on the North Yorkshire moors when Gerry Robinson at Granada fired his opening shot at the company last November. The Forte family now owns 7,000 acres of prime shooting land in Surrey. But the upstart immigrant image still persisted, indeed was probably made *more endurable by the on*slaught on the Savoy Hotel launched in 1981. To its defenders the Savoy Hotel was the last bastion of Edwardian England. In the lean, mean 1990s Trusthouse Forte again followed City fashion and became simply Forte, and the hotels were reorganised into more identifiable brands.

In 1992 Forte sold its Gardner Merchant contract catering company which specialises in mass-produced meals for large factories. The proceeds were used in an effort to expand on mainland Europe.

Selling the hotels, page 25
Pennington, page 27
How the deal was won, and City diary, page 29

CHRIS HARRIS

Lord Forte yesterday with his daughters Giancarla Alen-Buckley, left, and Irene Danilovich; and below, in his first milk bar in London

Self-made man ahead of the game

THROUGHOUT the takeover battle Gerry Robinson, right, has been careful to set himself apart from his adversary as a self-made man of the people. Told that Sir Rocco Forte had been shooting game when Granada launched its bid last November, he replied: "I get invited to shoots all the time. I just can't stand the idea of doing it."

Renowned as a cost-cutter par excellence, Mr Robinson lost no time yesterday in announcing that some redundancies — albeit fewer than 1,000 — would *be made. But he insisted* that in the long run the takeover would create more jobs than it destroyed.

Mr Robinson, 47, studied for the priesthood before starting work at 16 as a cost clerk in a *Matchbox* toy factory. He later joined GrandMet, the food and drinks giant, and led a management buy-out of the *catering division in 1987. In* 1991 Granada persuaded him to join with a mandate to improve profits.

In the Savoy, nothing disturbs the discreet calm of the bourgeoisie

By Joe Joseph

THE unflappable manager of the Savoy Grill Room, Angelo Maresca, gestured at his host of regulars: "People keep asking me what the latest is. The Granada takeover is definitely what everyone is talking about here today. But whatever happens, I don't think the Grill Room will change. It's an institution and it's always busy. What reason would there be to change it?"

Although Forte owns about two thirds of the shares in the Savoy Group, it has never managed to gain a majority of the voting shares. But the passion with which the Forte family has pursued the Savoy over the years may yet make it their most heartbreaking loss of all among the debris of yesterday's defeat. A longstanding guest would scarcely be aware that control of this hotel has caused such heartache over the years.

The *ancien régime* predicted mayhem when the Fortes strengthened their grip, but the Savoy remains as serene as ever. Staff are famously efficient: only Pete Sampras serves with more speed or dash. "It's one of Rocco's favourite restaurants," Maresca boasts, "but since all this Granada business started we haven't seen him here so often."

Maresca has been managing this power-brokers' canteen for 14 years, making sure that politicians, City tycoons, media bigwigs and Establishment stalwarts get the table they want when they want it. It is a challenge which can require the skills of a sorcerer.

He does not look like a man too fearful of the future. "People come, people go," he smiled, "but the Grill Room stays the same." This discreet calm of the bourgeoisie hangs over the Savoy like a warm duvet. The most junior bellboy now seems familiar with the tricks of the City and the way that assets can be sucked into or spat out of a conglomerate's portfolio. Staff have come to realise that as far as the foot soldiers are concerned, it probably does not make much operational difference who owns the shares.

Marco, mixing drinks in the American Bar, said: "I know that there was some deadline for the shares at one o'clock. But any more? I don't know. I will go and buy the *Evening Standard* now and I will find *out. But the Savoy is the* Savoy. Nothing is going to change. I've been working for the Savoy company for two years now. It's a very good company. The management have told us not to worry about anything."

Elsewhere, too, the hotel staff look as agitated as statues. "I've only been here ten years," said the concierge. Only? "Well, my predecessor was here for 38." His gist was that the world is out there and in here is the Savoy. "Of course, we feel sorry for Rocco, but we go on regardless."

The doorman hailing taxis for the Grill's £50-a-head lunchers has been there a mere 7½ years. "I haven't noticed any signs of anxiety in this hotel. The Waldorf, they might be worried."

But at the Waldorf, a harpist was soothing guests taking tea in the Palm Court, while in the main restaurant dawdling lunchers ordered a final coffee. Delegates to a Suzuki conference milled about in the foyer. "It's business as usual here," said a French waiter. "They haven't told us anything. I don't see why it should change."

A businesslike manageress said: "The hotel is full, and everybody's got a job to do. Still, it's a sad day. The end of an era. This was the first hotel the Fortes bought."

Many of the 300 staff who work at Forte's headquarters in central London were in tears but kept on working yesterday afternoon, even after they had heard of Granada's triumph. "Our hotels *have not stopped taking guests* or serving them," Rebecca Shephard, spokeswoman for the group, said. The staff were "very disappointed. There *have been quite a few tears* today. It is the end of an era and of the Forte name. It has been a wonderful business."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Computer crime 'costs firms £1bn'

Computer theft is costing companies up to £1 billion a year in lost equipment, damaged software and missed business, insurers said yesterday. The Association of British Insurers puts the cost of lost equipment at £300 million a year, of which only a third is insured. Companies often cannot replace data, while equipment finds a ready buyer on the black market.

Airport cab award

Peter and Irene Sykes, both 65, were awarded £90 by Oxford County Court after a taxi failed to arrive for a booked journey to Gatwick at the start of their holiday. They had to take their own car and arrived just in time. Paradise Cars of Oxford is contesting the judgment.

RAF pilot killed

AN RAF pilot was killed when *his Jaguar aircraft* crashed on take-off. The single-seater attack-and-reconnaissance plane was beginning a routine training *flight at RAF Coltishall in* Norfolk. The pilot has not been named and a board of inquiry has been set up.

Footballer's trial

Nicky Butt, a Manchester United midfielder, was given unconditional bail by the city's magistrates and sent for Crown Court trial accused of assaulting a man in a Chinese restaurant. He is alleged to have caused actual bodily harm to Peter Oldbury, 25, in Charlie Chan's last October.

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Commuters take the strain as trains are cut over safety fears

By Jonathan Prynn
Transport Correspondent

BRITISH RAIL was yesterday forced to withdraw nearly 100 London commuter trains suspected of having metal fatigue, forcing tens of thousands of passengers to crush into half the normal number of carriages.

Some of the trains, all modern and British-built, have cracks in the couplings that hold the carriages together. Tests are being carried out on the others in the fleet of 97.

Drivers refused yesterday morning to take out any of the trains, which are operated by the South Eastern BR subsidiary, and safety inspectors said they could not be used again until they had been thoroughly checked.

South Eastern was criticised by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) for not informing inspectors that it planned to continue running the trains with interconnecting carriage doors locked. Lew Adams, the general secretary of Aslef, the train drivers' union, said: "We are supporting the drivers because we believe that the units are unsafe. If it had been anything other than the railway industry all these trains would have been grounded."

The HSE said the suspect trains could not be used because of the risk that a carriage could become detached in the event of a coupling snapping.

The 388 affected carriages were made by ABB of York, which has denied liability. They were delivered to South Eastern between 1992 and last year. South Eastern warned commuters it would be able to provide, at best, only a Saturday service. There were no trains all day between Dartford and Victoria, Tunbridge Wells and Victoria and on the Orpington to London Bridge line.

Passengers who were able to get on trains complained of sardine-like conditions with passengers at some stations unable to squeeze into packed carriages.

Yesterday's scare came as Railtrack presented its last set of audited figures before its flotation in May, insisting that safety had never been better. A £98 million pre-tax profit in the six months up to September 1995 compared with £189 million in the year to March 1995.

Results, page 26

☐ A project to encourage 400,000 lorries a year off the road and on to freight trains, riding "piggyback", has hit a problem — the railway bridges on the proposed line are too low. Railtrack is to commission a study into how the bridges can be raised, or the track lowered, for the project planned by the Piggyback Consortium, a partnership of 40 local authorities, ferry operators and freight companies, including Eurotunnel and SNCF, the French railway system.

IAN HODGSON

Miklos Baungartner speaking yesterday about the letters of support he had received

Relief of man in clear over killing

By Adrian Lee

A BUSINESSMAN spoke yesterday of his relief at learning that he was not to be prosecuted over the death of an intruder in a struggle at his home.

Miklos Baungartner could still face a private prosecution or a civil claim for damages from the family of the dead man, Robert Ingham, 22, but a private prosecution is likely to succeed only if new evidence comes to light.

Mr Baungartner, 54, suffered a broken wrist in the fight and still had his arm in a sling as he and his solicitor gave their reactions yesterday to the Crown Prosecution Service's decision.

Mr Baungartner, whose company builds tennis courts, was "very relieved" that he would not be prosecuted. He said he had received 250 letters of support: "Letters that have been sent from around the world. Every one has touched my heart."

Mr Baungartner may be called to give evidence at Mr Ingham's inquest.

A soap opera fan writes . . .

"This cock-up at the Opera House certainly proves one thing: that nothing was contrived to impress the cameras. Nobody would plan *this*."

Lynne Truss reviews *The House* on the Television page

Plus: today's television, radio, satellite and cable; the most comprehensive listing of ITV regional variations and the pick of the day's programmes

Television, Section 2, Page 47

Boxer meets his match in 6ft PC

By Bill Frost

PRINCE Naseem Hamed, the WBO featherweight champion, came off second best in an unscheduled confrontation with a 6ft police constable yesterday.

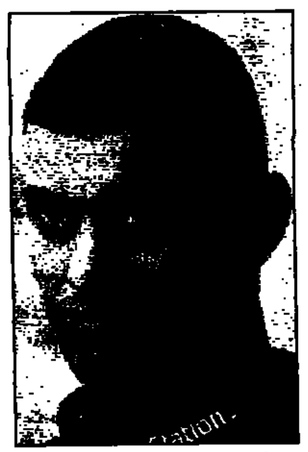
The boxer was put in his place by the officer after reducing Helen Russell, a British Airways clerk, to tears as he checked in at Manchester Airport for a flight to Heathrow.

The fighter had tried to take two pieces of hand baggage onto the aircraft. He was told by Miss Russell that only one was permitted and that one of his bags was too heavy for cabin luggage anyway. "I told him the weight limit was 20kg and he said if his bag didn't get where it was supposed to be he would come back and find me," Miss Russell claimed. "No one has ever said that to me before and I have been working here for nine years."

Hamed then allegedly failed to answer standard security questions about his luggage and Miss Russell contacted her supervisor, who confiscated the boxer's ticket and boarding card. He warned Hamed that he might not be allowed to travel and called police.

Hamed was warned about his conduct by the constable, the tallest that could be found in the airport. After apologising to Miss Russell and other BA staff, the boxer was given his ticket back and allowed to join the flight to Heathrow. Dee Varnam, who saw the incident, said: "Prince Naseem's attitude changed completely after he was spoken to by the policeman, who was smashing."

Ann-Marie Hudson, of the promoter Frank Warren's Sports Network, which manages Hamed, said: "He only realised later that she didn't share his sense of humour. He apologised. It was something that was blown out of all proportion."



Prince Naseem: said sorry to BA staff

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Fear of tomorrow turns Britons into savers and gamblers

By Leyla Linton and Russell Jenkins

BRITONS are cutting their spending, clearing their debts and putting their spare cash in the bank. Their only indulgence is a weekly flutter on the National Lottery as they wait for better times to come, according to a survey published today.

The latest Mintel lifestyles report shows that the country is still unsettled by falling house prices, negative equity and a lack of job security. It also confirms that Britain is now a nation of gamblers.

Gambling is the fastest-growing sector of consumer spending with the lottery helping to account for a 42 per cent increase last year. More than 90 per cent of people now gamble routinely, compared with only 68 per cent a decade ago.

Emma Bresbode, the survey's project manager, said: "The recession and the introduction of the National Lottery has been a factor in encouraging consumers to gamble more." She said the least well off were most likely to splash out a disproportionate amount of their earnings.

More than a third of people questioned said playing the lottery added excitement to their Saturday nights, while only 18 per cent believed that the odds were far too steep to bother playing.

People are also saving more. Where once consumers saved for a specific purpose — such as buying a house, car or a holiday — they are now saving for its own sake, amassing piles of cash. "Manufacturers, retailers and other service providers will have to come to terms with the emergence of a New Consumer," says the report.

First-time buyers are reluctant to enter the housing market and young people *between the ages of 20 and 34* are less likely to agree that buying a home is a good financial investment. Spending on insurance and pensions has increased by 2.4 per cent over the past decade and Mintel predicts that this trend will continue to increase up until 2000, as will spending on medical and education fees.

Health concerns have led to an increase in the number of people going to leisure centres. Almost twice as many go more than once a week, compared *with 1991, but this still* amounts to just 11 per cent of the population.

Despite the publicity surrounding the Internet, there *has been no significant* increase in the number of people who say they are very interested in new technology.

The traditional family meal stages a comeback

By Leyla Linton and Russell Jenkins

FAMILIES are increasingly making the effort to have at least one meal together, according to the Mintel survey. Mothers, especially, are leading the trend towards more traditional mealtimes.

***For decades meals have* been increasingly consumed from chairs or sofas in front of the television.**

The survey shows that 42 *per cent now believe it is* important to have one meal together each day, an increase of 4 per cent on last year. More than half of all adults have their main meals at *table* on most occasions, compared with 38 per cent who usually watch television.

There has also been a return to traditional cooked *meals, although convenience* foods are preferred. The tendency to eat less fresh meat rose from 20 per cent in 1994 to 24 per cent last year. Fresh *fish is also on the decline.*

In the past five years spending on confectionery rose by 27 per cent.

CHRIS HARRIS

The singer Lynsey de Paul and the actress Pam Ferris sit in a veal crate at the launch of the campaign to end this method of rearing calves

Scrap veal crates now, say pressure groups

By Michael Hornsby
Agriculture Correspondent

ANIMAL welfare pressure groups started a Europe-wide campaign yesterday for an early ban on the "cruel and unnecessary suffering" of calves *raised in veal crates.*

Britain outlawed veal crates five years ago, but thousands of farmers in other European Union countries still use them to meet the big demand on the Continent for the pale meat that this rearing method alone can produce. The calves are taken from their mothers soon after birth and kept until slaughter at six months in narrow pens in semi-darkness. Every year Britain exports about 500,000 calves to the rest of the EU. Most end up in veal crates in Holland and France, and some of the meat produced is sent back, legally, to this country for sale in shops and *restaurants.*

The EU's scientific veterinary committee condemned veal crates in a report last November, and the European Commission in Brussels is expected today to announce proposals to phase them out over 12 years from 1998. But animal welfare groups want the timetable accelerated. Ron Kirkby, council chairman of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said: "To wait 12 years for calves to get a better deal is not acceptable to the RSPCA or any other animal welfare organisation. There is no reason why crates should not be *banned before the end of the century.*"

At a ceremony in London, Pam Ferris, star of the television series *The Darling Buds of May,* Lynsey de Paul, the singer, and Elliot Morley, the Labour Party's spokesman on animal welfare, joined Mr Kirkby in lighting a giant candle to mark the start of the campaign. Similar candles were lit at many of the RSPCA's 200 branches in England and Wales and in the European Parliament in Strasbourg. The campaign is being organised in Europe by the World Society for the Protection of Animals, which has 340 member societies (220 of them in *Europe) in 70 countries.*

Carol McKenna, its campaigns co-ordinator, said: "Veal became a dirty word in the UK when the public learnt of the misery of calves kept in crates. If the Council of Ministers fails to introduce a ban, our campaign will make sure that veal becomes a dirty word across Europe too."

Newbury protection cost soars

By Adrian Lee

THE cost to the taxpayer of hiring hundreds of guards to protect workers on the Newbury bypass will be much higher than expected.

The Highways Agency said yesterday that the weekly bill for private security was about £50,000 and the total would exceed the £500,000 allocated by at least £200,000, and possibly by £500,000. "Unfortunately there will be an extra burden on the taxpayer," a spokeswoman said.

The number of guards on site has risen from 250 to more than 500 and more are due to join their ranks in the next few days. Although they heavily outnumber protesters, the guards have struggled to prevent determined efforts to stop work along the 8½-mile route.

Police were called to a brawl on Monday night among about 20 of the guards, employed by Reliance Security. There were no arrests.

Villagers offer up tax to save peace

By A Staff Reporter

VILLAGERS in Kent have volunteered to increase their tax bills by up to £40 a year to oppose a roadside service area that would include a 400-*bedroom hotel, a McDonald's* drive-through restaurant and a service station.

The development planned for the North Downs, south of Canterbury, has been rejected by Canterbury City Council but will go to a public inquiry later this year. Kingston parish council will pay for a barrister to put its case by increasing its share of the council tax from £1,200 a year to £6,200. All 130 villagers who attended a public meeting approved of the rise.

This will mean an average increase of £25 each for the 200 residents and up to £40 for those in the highest tax bands.

The legal bill is expected to be at least £15,000. The rest of the money will come from fundraising events. The *24-hour* stopover planned by the developer, Reunion Holdings, would employ up to 700 people and includes a Texaco *garage, heavy goods vehicle* depot and tyre bay, and a caravan park.

Objectors say that the development would mar one of Kent's most beautiful landscapes. Five other villages are affected. The area is split in two by the A2 London to Dover road, but since the opening of the Channel Tunnel and improved motorway connections traffic has decreased.

John Gilby, 54, of the **Barham Downs Action** Group, said: "We can accept the dual carriageway, but this McDonald's is a step too far. The service station would be just a short drive to either Dover or Canterbury, where there are ample garages and restaurants."

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Threat of old guard defines Blair's need for Lib Dem support

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown could happily co-operate in government, whether in coalition or, in the latest vogue term, partnership. But would their parties be so willing? That question is raised as much by Labour's turmoil over Harriet Harman as it is by Mr Ashdown's *kite-flying on Monday.*

The Harman affair is no longer about the future education of an 11-year-old, if it ever was. Nor is it even really about the future of Ms Harman, though she faces a stern test of her political character at this morning's meeting of the parliamentary party and, later, during the Commons health debate. It is about Mr Blair's attempt to turn Labour into a new party. His authority is now being challenged by the forces of "old" Labour which have been largely dormant during his 18-month leadership. Ms Harman's vulnerability has provided a way of attacking the whole "new" Labour strategy. If she is forced to resign, despite the leader's support, it would be a big defeat for the Blair camp.

Labour will suffer far more with the public if it appears to be compromising over parental choice. Mr Blair and Ms Harman are more in tune with the public over education than are "old" Labour defenders of the comprehensive system. The real danger to Labour is not over her decision but over the appearance of disunity. Mr Blair had his toughest Prime Minister's questions so far yesterday as John Major exploited the opposition's discomfiture. The Tories' gloating, and some usual loutish jeering by the yobbish David Evans, was partly relief that at last they had a chance to counter-attack. But the shrewder Tories know it may not last. For the moment, Mr Blair has no choice but to ride out the row.

For him, far more ominous was the extent and speed of the breakdown of discipline among Labour MPs and spokesmen. Loyalty and standing by a colleague under pressure were soon forgotten. If it is like this in opposition, what might it be like in government when Labour MPs would face far more serious tests over public spending, welfare reform and Europe? It is precisely this worry that lies behind Mr Blair's desire for a broad base of political support in government, even if Labour wins an overall majority. Even though Mr Blair is confident that many of the new MPs elected next time will be his allies, he wants to reach beyond Labour. He has said he wants to lead a government that represents two thirds of the British people. That implies an understanding, if not a deal, with the Liberal Democrats.

Hence, the significance of Mr Ashdown's Monday lecture was not so much what he said, but Mr Blair's broad welcome for working together. His Labour predecessors would have been hostile, if not dismissive. Of course, there are many hurdles, not least over electoral change at Westminster, and both leaders tread carefully to avoid internal party rows. Mr Blair has stressed that any co-operation would have to be on Labour's terms. But Mr Ashdown's view of politics is similar to his own with its emphasis on an agreed agenda for a reforming government "robust enough to survive for at least two Parliaments", involving a partnership between parties, extensive constitutional reform and a priority for education, welfare reform and a positive role in Europe. However, as Monday's leak of an internal Liberal Democrat staff analysis showed, the party is vulnerable in several areas where its policies are much fuzzier than Mr Ashdown's proposals. Just as many Labour MPs are still not converted to Blairism, so many Liberal Democrats have yet to face up to the hard choices involved in the politics of partnership.

PETER RIDDELL

National party 'at odds with local councils'

Grammar schools fear Labour will finish them off

By David Charter, education correspondent

GRAMMAR schools fear that local authorities will try to pick them off under a Labour government, despite the national party's assurances that parents will have the final say.

The Tories' poor showing in local elections has left many of the surviving 161 grammar schools in a stand-off with councils led by both Labour and Liberal Democrat members who oppose selection.

Nowhere is the uneasy truce more tense than in the Manchester borough of Trafford, where the minority Labour council has made it clear that it wants to turn the area's four grammar schools into comprehensives.

Bryan Purvis, head teacher of Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, which is in Trafford borough, said he was confident that the school would survive, having fought off one closure and one merger threat in the 1980s. It opted out of council control on January 1.

Mr Purvis said: "The local Labour group has made its views fairly plain but we have quite a track record of defending our grammar schools here. I cannot imagine a local ballot here being in favour of abolishing them. But there seems to be some inconsistency in the attitude of of the local authority and the national party."

The private fear of the National Grammar Schools' Association is that local Labour councils may not be willing to keep selective schools even if parents say they want them.

Dave Acton, the Labour education chairman, said that the council would take notice of parents' views. "We are opposed to selection and once we get a Labour government we would want to put a plan together to phase out selection. We do not mind what the schools are called — they could retain the name grammar. What we are concerned about is that no child should be excluded from any school by means of examining or interview. Prior to doing that we would want to consult with parents, and we would need the Secretary of State's approval."

The changing colour of local government since 1993 has brought other rifts between councils and grammar schools and helps to explain why more than 100 have opted for grant-maintained status. Opting out removes a local authority's control over admissions to the school.

However, this has not stopped former Tory councils from making trouble for grant-maintained selective schools. Essex, now run by Labour with the Liberal Democrats, has withdrawn its subsidy from children using buses to travel to a grammar school. Lincolnshire County Council refused to run the 11-plus testing system for grammar school entry and the schools now administer it themselves.

The National Grammar Schools' Association expects a series of battles against councils and is taking legal advice on defending its members, although it took heart from a *Harris poll this week which* showed that 54 per cent of parents wanted a return to the 11-plus.

The safest place for a selective school is probably Buckinghamshire, the last remaining Conservative shire county, which has 14 grammar schools. The main concentration is in Kent, which has 43 grammar schools, followed by Lincolnshire, which has 17. There are six in Birmingham, six in Gloucestershire, five in Essex and four in Lancashire.

Head teachers say that Labour policy raises as many questions as it answers. Martyn Morris, head of Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar in Waterfoot, Lancashire, said: "Five hundred youngsters apply to come to this school and we can take 150. If they say we are not allowed to select, how are we going to choose between those 500? If they go for a small circle catchment area around the school, it will have significant social repercussions because you are not going to get the mix of students unless the housing is mixed."

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Blunkett pressed to clarify policy

By Jill Sherman, political correspondent

SENIOR Labour backbenchers are urging David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, to spell out the party's position on Britain's remaining grammar schools.

Modernising MPs fear that the furore over Harriet Harman's decision to send her son to a selective grammar school has muddled Labour's message. The party has a long-standing policy to end selection, but last year it was revised to allow for the future of grammar schools to be determined by parents of children at nearby primary schools. They would be consulted on any plan to end selection — probably by ballot.

Parents of children already attending a grammar school will not be given a say on the ground that they will not be affected by any decision to abolish selection.

The latest policy document, agreed at last year's party conference, says: "While we have never supported grammar schools in their exclusion of children by examination, change can only come through local agreement. Such change in the character of the school would only follow a clear demonstration of support from the parents affected by the decision."

Most interpreted the new phrase as a softening of opposition to selection, but Mr Blunkett confused the message by saying in his conference speech: "Watch my lips, no selection, no interviews." His tough language was aimed at ensuring party backing for a new policy on grant-maintained schools, but the phrase has been seized on by Labour leftwingers criticising Ms Harman. Her decision has prompted some modernisers to call for a further softening in the party's line. Several MPs argue that it is untenable to support choice, but oppose selection.

Gilmour accuses Tory Left of failure to halt extremism

By Arthur Leathley, political correspondent

LORD GILMOUR of Craigmillar, as Sir Ian Gilmour one of the most prominent "wets" of the Thatcher era, has denounced left-wing Tories for being ineffective and failing to stop Britain becoming Europe's most right-wing nation.

The former Cabinet minister says in an article in the February edition of *Prospect*, the new political monthly, that both Labour and the Liberal Democrats "show signs of being closer to One Nation Toryism than does Major's Government".

Lord Gilmour writes that Britain has become "easily the most right-wing country in Western Europe, something which it has never been before in its history".

One Nation Tories remained remarkably passive while the Government became "in many ways more extreme than Lady Thatcher's had ever been". He blames many of those on the Left of the party for failing to wake up to the fact that they had been outplayed by right-wing Conservatives and for showing "astonishing" quiescence.

Looking ahead to the possibility of defeat in the general election, he predicts that an opposition Tory party led by Michael Portillo will be ruled by a nationalism that will be "stridently offensive to our European partners".

Lord Gilmour, who was sacked as Lord Privy Seal in 1981, dismisses the Right's claim that the presence of left-wing Cabinet ministers indicates the influence of the Left. Ministers such as Gillian Shephard, Kenneth Clarke, William Waldegrave and Sir George Young, had introduced right-wing policies ranging from rail privatisation to tax cuts, he says.

NEC told to rethink ballot decision

By James Landale
political reporter

A ROW over allegations of ballot-rigging that has split Labour activists in Swindon was sent back to the party's National Executive Committee by a High Court judge yesterday.

Sir John Vinelott said that the NEC should compile a new report on events surrounding the selection of Michael Wills, a London-based TV producer, as the parliamentary candidate for Swindon North.

James D'Avila, a local councillor and union official who failed to win selection, claims that the ballot was rigged and is seeking an injunction to prevent the NEC from endorsing Mr Wills.

The row exposes the growing differences between old and new Labour. Many activists resent attempts by Labour chiefs to impose Blairite candidates.

The judge agreed to Labour's proposal that the NEC should decide how best to resolve the conflict and report back to the court in March. However, he did not accept an initial report by Peter Coleman, Labour's director of Development and Organisation, which rejected a proposed repeat ballot and recommended that the NEC select a new candidate itself.

The row began after serious procedural flaws were discovered when Mr Wills, a special adviser to Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, beat Mr D'Avila by 114 votes to 84 last September. Labour chiefs agree that the selection cannot stand but argue that another ballot would be unnecessarily divisive. Yesterday the party agreed to compile a new report on the options open to the NEC and Sir John adjourned the case until March 6.

Mr D'Avila said after the hearing that he was sad to have had to resort to legal action and did not want to embarrass the party, but he added: "It has been worth it."

Gorman: says Labour will cave in to EU

Brussels 'blighting British life'

By Alice Thomson

THE eight former Whipless Tory rebels yesterday launched their alternative to the Government's promised White Paper on this year's conference on the European Union.

Their document, called *Dire Directives*, calls for the scrapping of "undemocratic" Brussels directives. They list 18 that they say have blighted British life in areas such as meat hygiene, waste disposal and metrication.

A directive aimed at thwarting money laundering is said to have made it virtually impossible for grandparents to open small bank savings accounts for their grandchildren. "This blizzard of directives has got to be *stopped,*" *Christopher Gill* (Ludlow) said.

The rebels praised John Major for his decision to publish a White Paper and to resist subjecting Britain to a "cascade of propaganda" on the single currency. Teresa Gorman (Billericay) said that the White Paper meant that Mr Major had a "golden opportunity to distinguish us from the Labour Party, who are going to cave into Europe hook, line and sinker".

But Tom Spencer, a Tory MEP, described the rebels' document as "a recycling of myths" about Brussels. "I hope it gets a resounding and long-lasting yawn."

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to Social Security ministers and the Prime Minister; debate on the Finance Bill, committee. In the Lords: Family Law Bill, committee; Potato Marketing Scheme (Commencement of Revocation) Order 1995.

TODAY in the Commons: backbench debates will be followed this afternoon by education and employment questions and a Labour-initiated debate on the National Health Service. In the Lords: opportunities in the proposed free trade area of the Americas; motor sport industry; Companies Act (Miscellaneous Accounting Amendments) Regulations; Financial Services Act (Investment Services) (Extension of Scope of Act) Order.

Claims go to watchdog

SERIOUS allegations against ministers and Tory MPs by Mohamed Al Fayed are to be referred to the new Commons disciplinary committee (Arthur Leathley writes).

Mr Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods and the Ritz, Paris, made a string of written accusations, including that an MP asked him for a £60,000 payment, to the Commons Privileges Committee last November. The committee agreed yesterday to delete most of his claims from an official report but to pass them to the Standards and Privileges Committee for possible further investigation.

Mr Al Fayed made the allegations in evidence over *The Guardian's* use of a bogus fax to the hotel purportedly from Jonathan Aitken, the former Cabinet minister.

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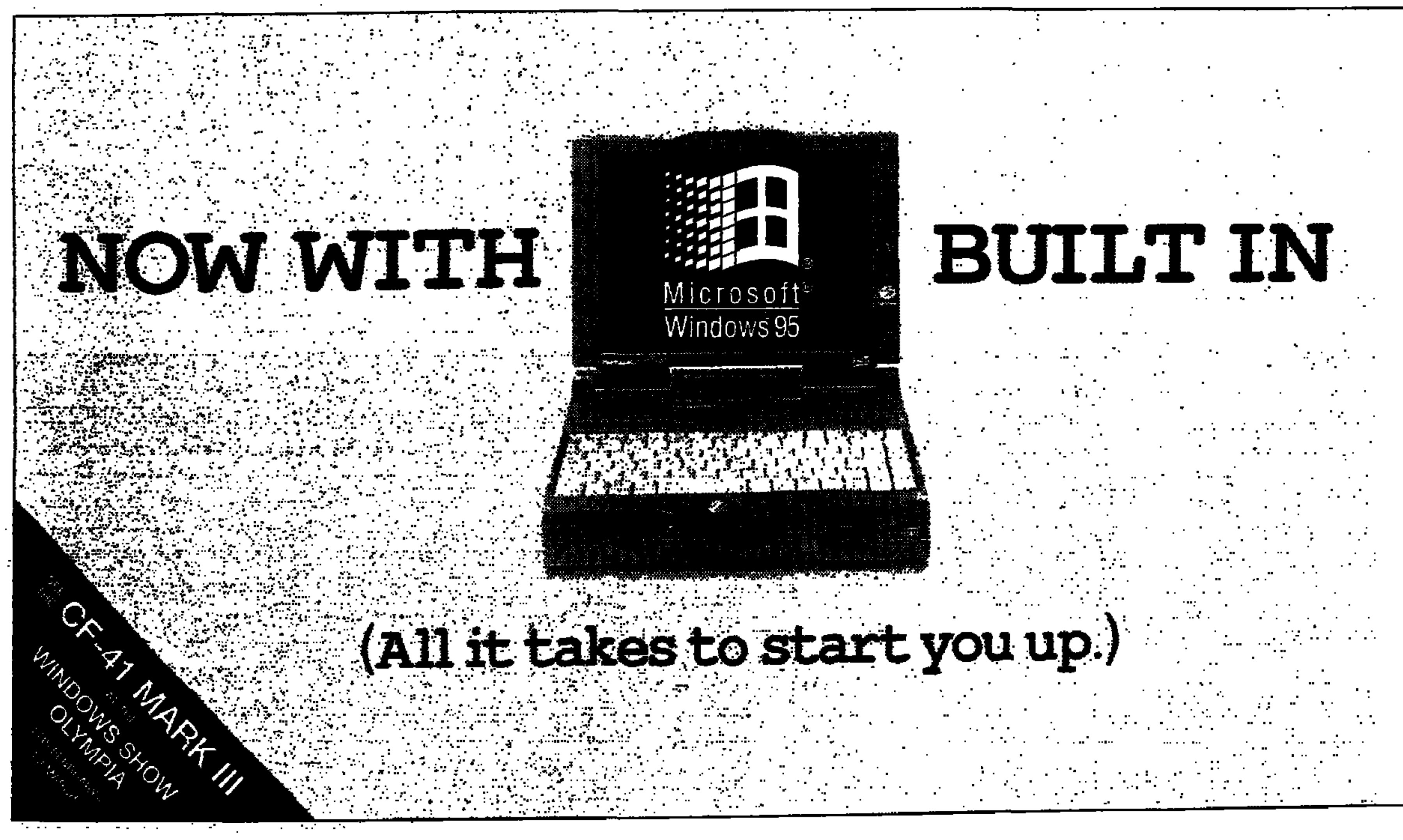

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Import duties fiasco leads to sobering times for Ukraine's café society

FROM LESIA RUDAKEVICH
IN KIEV

ON THE streets of Kiev, kiosks no longer sell Western-brand cigarettes, stores are running out of favourite liquors and bars are cutting back on cocktails.

The dwindling supply of Western alcohol and cigarettes will be a sobering experience for many. Ukrainian companies halted imports on January 1 and vowed not to bring in Western spirits unless the country overhauls customs and excise policies. For a nation growing used to its Beefeaters and Baileys — and for British exporters counting on a burgeoning market — the move means millions of dollars in lost business and tax revenue, not to mention millions of unhappy Ukrainians.

Already the halt on alcohol imports is wreaking havoc in small cafés, bars and restaurants. "We used to have eight pages of liquor menu. Now we only have one," said Volodymyr Reyumov, manager of Kiev's Owl nightclub. "Only the mafia and rackeeters win with these manoeuvrings in taxes." Restaurants can survive by switching to domestic drinks, but small cafés and bars that depend on a wide range of liquor are not likely to weather this rationing.

The shortages stem from an honest, but bungled, attempt by the state to retrieve lost taxes on cigarette and alcohol sales. A presidential decree last September ordered that by October all imports on alcohol and cigarettes would be subject to new excise taxes. Proof of payment by importers was to be a special excise stamp put on each bottle and pack. The decree ordered the Cabinet to issue detailed instructions on compliance within two weeks and designated September 15 as a cut-off date for sales of products without stamps.

But the tax inspectorate of Ukraine began to print and sell stamps to importers only on October 20, five days after the decree took effect. Making matters worse, the Cabinet belatedly issued instructions only two days before the cut-off date. At that point, all previous imports had yet to be stamped. New imports, too, would require stamps.

"In Russia, importers got three months to comply, but in Ukraine we were five days late before we even started. Stamps were not around and already we were forbidden to sell what we had imported," says Valentin Kobilyanski, vice-president of MDM Ukraine, a subsidiary of a Canadian-Ukrainian joint venture.

If the excise stamp fiasco merely delayed imports, changes to the tax regime created a bigger mess. The same belated Cabinet directive altered two essential principles in import duties. Instead of that percentage customs duty of 50 per cent, the rate became a fixed percentage of 7.2 ecu (£5.83) per litre of alcohol — at which point the customs duty jumped eightfold because a similar scheme was not applied in excise taxes.

A squabble between two branches of government has thwarted any resolution. The Cabinet is only empowered to alter customs duties; the right to amend excise policies belongs to the Supreme Soviet. The national legislature has refused to adopt a corrector scheme.

Thanks to the changes, importers are being asked to pay $24 (£15) for every dollar's worth of liquor they bring in, and buyers would face a store price of about $30 a bottle. "At that price no one is going to buy, so everyone stopped importing liquor," said Yuri Yamshanov, a tax specialist with MDM.

The irony is that the Government is rapidly losing the money it tried to retrieve in the first place. According to World Bank calculations, yearly government budget losses in revenue from the current tax scheme will total $90 million.

Maastricht critic Séguin prepares to replace Juppé

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PHILIPPE SÉGUIN, Speaker of the National Assembly, has insisted in recent weeks that he does not want to be Prime Minister, while discreetly maneuvring himself into a position to take over the job.

"It is too early," he commented this week, when quizzed on his ambitions. "Being a Prime Minister, that is a dog's life ... I do not think about that all the time."

The incumbent, Alain Juppé, appears increasingly vulnerable as he struggles to salvage what remains of his welfare reform plans, and M Séguin is plainly thinking of little else as he hovers in the wings.

The prospect that President Chirac may replace M Juppé with M Séguin, an outspoken critic of the Maastricht treaty, has added fresh fuel to the debate over the single European currency.

Even Jacques Delors, the former European Commission president, has acknowledged that economic slowdowns in France and Germany have cast the EMU schedule into doubt.

M Juppé has been criticised for his aloof and technocratic approach to government. His efforts to overhaul the welfare system, reduce the deficit and ensure that France qualifies for a single European currency provoked the worst strikes since 1968, from which his Government is still feeling the effects.

The Prime Minister survived the industrial unrest by offering key concessions to the strikers and gradually many of the elements in his reform plan have been stripped away. A new tax to reimburse the social security debt is still on track, but most recently the Government offered concessions to doctors angered at proposed health cuts and agreed to scrap plans to tax family allowances.

Séguin: bloodhound seeking a dog's life

Dangerously weak. M Juppé has also been subjected to mounting attacks from within the ruling coalition, particularly from supporters of Edouard Balladur, the former Prime Minister, while anti-Maastricht campaigners have proposed constitutional amendments to protect the sovereignty of France, including the statement that the franc is the currency of the French republic.

As the economic situation has deteriorated, M Séguin has stepped up his condemnation of Maastricht. Last week he accused the treaty's framers of "historic stupidity". At the same time, in an attempt to tone down his reputation as an uncompromising anti-European, M Séguin has recently limited his criticism to the methods by which monetary union should be implemented, not the notion itself.

To replace M Juppé with M Séguin would nonetheless signal an important shift in emphasis by the Chirac Government, which has made deficit reduction and the march to Maastricht a priority. But the Speaker may be the only man with sufficient clout to hold the ruling coalition together in the run-up to the 1998 legislative elections.

"I cannot see who else could do it if Juppé goes," one presidential confidant said.

In addition to a loyal bloc of 30 Séguinists in parliament, the Speaker has been quietly building up his power base by putting out feelers to other partners in the ruling coalition.

During last month's strikes, M Séguin was photographed chatting with striking train drivers in what was plainly intended as a direct criticism of M Juppé's policies.

The two men, who cordially dislike each other, could hardly be more different. Where M Juppé is intense, efficient and almost wholly lacking in charisma, M Séguin is an extrovert of great bonhomie and charm, as well as cunning.

With his drooping cheeks and mournful eyes, M Séguin is often compared to a bloodhound, in both looks and tenacity. The Speaker plainly scents blood in the air, and many observers predict that within months he will be living the "dog's life" he professes not to want.

Leading article, page 17

Delors raises alarm

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

A YEAR after he handed over to Jacques Santer as President of the European Commission, Jacques Delors returned to Brussels yesterday and sounded the alarm over monetary union, which he said was vital to save Europe from inevitable decline.

M Delors delivered his homily on the urgency of deeper political union at the conference being staged by the Commission to launch the publicity campaign for the euro, the currency scheduled to be created in three years. The contrast between the grand Delors rhetoric and the low-key discourse of Mr Santer spoke volumes for the revolution in style which the stolid Luxembourger has wrought in his first year in Brussels.

M Delors lamented the wave of doubt that had emerged across the Continent over the merits of economic and monetary union (EMU) and the existence of the EU. There was too much talk of the technical means and not enough of the political union which EMU was designed to ensure, he said.

"The times are difficult for Europe ... Our responsibility is more than ever to remind people of the historic stakes in play for the European nations which are threatened ... by political and economic decline". M Delors remained sure that EMU would be born on its January 1999 deadline, despite all the present pessimism and qualms across Europe's political spectrum.

The former President, who also called for EMU to be accompanied by an "economic government" for Europe, was taking an implicit swipe at the emollient leadership practised by Mr Santer.

Hope high as Kohl kicks off jobs talks

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

AN AMBITIOUS meeting of German politicians, employers and union leaders began last night under the chairmanship of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, in an attempt to generate jobs and sharpen competitiveness.

Expectations were high before the closed-door session, with Hans Olaf Henkel, the head of the Confederation of German Industry, calling for the "creation of two million more jobs by the year 2000" — well beyond the trade union blueprint. Klaus Zwickel, chief of the powerful engineering and metalworkers' union, has proposed an "Alliance for Work", in which unions promise to keep down wage claims in return for 300,000 new jobs over three years.

Both men seemed unreasonably optimistic, and sober economic experts said that, whatever catalogue of measures was eventually accepted, the most feasible goal was to push the total level of unemployment some way below the present four million.

There were two problems confronting Herr Kohl as he presented a list of some 50 possible measures. The first is that the huge unemployment figure — set to reach 10 per cent of the workforce this year, excluding over one million Germans on various government training schemes — has coincided with a crisis in welfare state financing.

The need to meet the European monetary union convergence criteria has concentrated the minds of the Government on the need for cuts in social spending. But almost all the Government's proposals for creating jobs involve more spending, or the shattering of economic and social taboos. The enormous cost of rebuilding eastern Germany continues to complicate calculations.

The second problem is the Chancellor's thin ten-seat parliamentary majority. He is politically more vulnerable than at any previous time in his 13 years in power. Yet any bold steps towards reviving the German economy requires some form of political confrontation.

Even apparently harmless suggestions, such as extending shopping hours, immediately prompt bickering within the Government. Disagreement was thus programmed in advance, and cracks in the trade unions' strategy were also starting to become apparent.

Claudia Schiffer models a redingote bridal gown designed by Karl Lagerfeld

Whiff of the past for Chanel

BY IAN R. WEBB

KARL LAGERFELD yesterday unveiled his collection for the House of Chanel in the intimate Ritz Hotel apartments which were for years the home of Coco Chanel.

Lagerfeld called his collection a "Love Story 25 years later ..." and the 300 guests, who touched the dresses as they went by, admired outfits shown by supermodels Claudia Schiffer, Kate Moss, Naomi Campbell, Nadja Auermann, and the new face of Chanel, British aristocrat Stella Tenant.

His new look was inspired by Coco Chanel's designs from her heyday on the eve of the Second World War which Lagerfeld described as "frivolity in the face of danger".

For day, a long, lean silhouette in black, navy and cream highlighted with sorbet shades of raspberry pink and soft apricot. Jackets hugged the body while skirts kicked out like an upturned champagne flute. This was Lagerfeld at his most minimal. Apart from the occasional brooch or gold belt, the only decorations were feathers in the model's hair.

For evening there were plenty of black chiffon ruffles and yet more feathers, but Lagerfeld also introduced a little razzmatazz with three colourful dresses, in red, purple and sky blue, so heavily embroidered with trinkets and beads that they rattled as the models walked through the rooms.

An updated version of Chanel's cream edge-to-edge suit with the familiar black outline (now cut in mother of pearl and jet sequin paillettes with a hemline sweeping the floor) was the perfect tribute to the couturier's memory. It was also a glorious triumph for Lagerfeld.

Euro in need of catwalk glamour

BY ROGER BOYES

HELMUT KOHL is keen to recruit the supermodel Claudia Schiffer as a champion of the single European currency in an attempt to make the euro more attractive to Germans. That, at any rate, is what the Chancellor is reported to have told his adviser.

The European Commission announced this week that only 34 to 38 per cent of Germans favour the single currency. The Chancellor has a lot of persuading to do and his advertising resources are meagre: barely DM15 million (£6.7 million) have been set aside — not even enough for a series of television commercials, and compares badly with the cost of launching a new yoghurt.

Schiffer, the blonde model from Düsseldorf, is supposed to be the answer. Government officials denied yesterday there were plans to put her face on euro coins, but the idea is that she will be one of the more visible parts of the campaign.

The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* approved: who better, it asked, to represent the "new euro — a slimmed-down currency for a belt-tightening era".

Certainly Schiffer was a better choice than Steffi Graf, the tennis player who is involved in a scandal over tax evasion. "Our Steffi still needs a bit more training in money matters. Claudia is simply better. She is, after all, engaged to be married to a magician [David Copperfield]," the newspaper said. Some conjuring might well be needed, it suggested, if Germans are to begin to believe in an entirely fictional currency.

Schiffer's personal views on the euro are far from certain. She has said she does not share the opinion of a fellow model who refused to get out of bed for less than $10,000. But would Schiffer get out of bed for a euro? She was busy yesterday on the Paris catwalks and unavailable for comment. A fashion journalist, with links to the model, said Schiffer had never made a public political statement. "I imagine she is in favour of the euro as long she is paid enough of them."

Although naming the new coinage euro was largely a German initiative, there is a lack of enthusiasm about it. Helmut Schmidt, the former Chancellor, who supports the new currency, refused an invitation to attend a Brussels brainstorming session on how to present the product.

Brink: challenging for world balloon record

Balloonist evades Fokker fall-out

BY OLIVER AUGUST

A DUTCH balloonist preparing to join the race around the world has been forced to rescue his craft from the fallout of the Fokker financial collapse.

Henk Brink, who will be competing with Richard Branson for the record, had been using Fokker facilities at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport to put the final touches to the pressurised capsule of his "Unicef Flyer", a combined helium and hot air balloon. Mr Brink has retrieved his balloon from the Fokker hangar, fearing that closure of the company would mean the death of his ambition.

A spokesman said: "Fokker is in a very dramatic situation. If it comes to a closure of the factory, maybe due to legal procedures it would have been very difficult to get the capsule out."

Fokker's majority shareholder, Daimler Benz, indicated this week it would no longer support the loss-making company, which for the past five years had been helping Mr Brink to build his 200ft balloon and was one of the main sponsors of his project. He moved it to a hangar owned by KLM, the Dutch airline, and intends to transport it to Nijmegen on Friday for the launch, which has been postponed repeatedly because of strong winds.

Fokker's founder, Anthony Fokker, fled to his native Holland days after the end of the First World War in 1918, fearing for his life as revolutionary unrest gripped defeated Germany. With him he took 20 of the latest Fokker DVIIs, remembered as the finest single-seat fighters of the war.

Fokker rebuilt his aerospace company in the same set of hangars in Amsterdam from which Mr Brink has now removed his balloon. The hangars are presently also being used to store some of Fokkers' greatest planes, including one of the triplanes flown by Manfred von Richthofen, "the Red Baron", the top German fighter "ace" of the First World War.

Yeltsin demands club rights

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday appealed to the Council of Europe to approve Russia's membership in spite of mounting criticism of the country's human rights record in Chechenia.

In a blunt message to the 36-nation group, which is due to decide on Moscow's application tomorrow, Russia's leader insisted his Government respected human rights and gave a warning that rejection would be tantamount to supporting the Chechen rebels.

"In a broader context, this will be interpreted as a refusal to back those who are fighting to reassert democratic principles and institutions in Russia," the Kremlin leader added in his letter.

Russia applied to join the Strasbourg-based organisation, which promotes democracy and human rights in Europe, in May 1992. Its application was frozen last year after its bloody assault on Chechenia, which is estimated to have cost 20,000 lives. Although much international criticism had died down, Mr Yeltsin faces new protests over his heavy-handed tactics in dealing with the Chechen hostage crisis earlier this month and a purge of his administration's last liberal members.

Some leading states are expected to support Russia's application. Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign Minister, said after meeting Mr Yeltsin this week that Russia should be accepted.

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Threat to political hopes of low-caste heroine

Film revives demand for arrest of 'bandit queen'

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

A FILM called *Bandit Queen*, about India's most famous outlaw, is about to open in Delhi, where the low-caste, illiterate former gang leader lives in the suburbs with her new husband. The film has reawakened the anger of high-caste Thakurs she supposedly slaughtered, and she could soon be rearrested.

Phoolan Devi, released on parole two years ago, is contemplating a political career: she is the darling of the nation's Untouchables — more usually described as Dalits, meaning the oppressed — who comprise almost a quarter of the population. She is seeking to assume the leadership of Dalits in Uttar Pradesh, which has a population of 120 million and is the country's most politically influential state.

Her arrest would cause an outcry among low-castes, who are increasingly assertive and politically aware. The supreme court has issued notices inquiring why her parole should not be cancelled. This followed a ruling by a lower court overturning a decision by the Uttar Pradesh state government to withdraw all charges against her.

She has never faced trial, but was held in prison for 11 years because of political pressure from the powerful Thakur community in Uttar Pradesh, who want her hanged. Miss Devi is alleged to have shot 20 of them 15 years ago in what has often been described as a revenge attack after she was gang-raped. Her rape is a central event in the new film, which had its premiere last week at the Indian Film Festival in Delhi.

An actress wields a rifle in the film as Miss Devi

She joined the film's maker, Shekhar Kapoor, on the stage, to loud applause. Dressed in a silk sari and wearing flowers in her hair she looked anything but a dacoit, or bandit. Mr Kapoor left before the screening because he said he could not bear to watch what was left of the film after the censors had cut many scenes. He invited the audience to stand up in a symbolic objection to censorship: not a single person in the packed auditorium remained seated.

Mr Kapoor said the censors had deleted scenes that revealed that casteism and female exploitation "are sanctioned by [Hindu] religion". The censors also removed swear words, which he said were important because they demonstrated Miss Devi's early rebelliousness.

Miss Devi has been touring Uttar Pradesh to test the political waters and has drawn huge crowds. Thakurs are outraged: they have erected a stone memorial in the hamlet where her gang supposedly massacred members of their community and have stepped up their campaign to have her arrested again.

The former bandit was released from jail essentially because it played well among low-caste voters. She says her exploits have been exaggerated and that she never even knew how to fire a gun.

The image of her carrying a rifle when she gave herself up to police in the early 1980s, however, is the one that sticks, and Thakur leaders say they will not rest until she is dead.

Miss Devi, alleged to have shot 20 men, says she never knew how to fire a gun

Unicef to study China's orphans

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

UNICEF is going to conduct a three-year survey of China's orphanages during which it will train workers and help to set new management standards. The announcement comes after human rights groups claimed orphans are systematically neglected and starved to death.

Unicef said it will work with the Chinese Government to identify those orphanages most at risk and help to improve rehabilitation programmes for physically disabled children. In all, $850,000 (£560,000) is set aside for 1996 and 1997.

While co-operating with Unicef, China yesterday arrested two human rights activists over "dying rooms" allegations.

One man, held for two days and accused of trying to overthrow the Government, has been released but is under surveillance. He is the brother of Dr Zhang Shuyun, the woman doctor who highlighted the scandal.

Spanish minister puts EMU in doubt

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

A SERIOUS crack appeared yesterday in the effort to keep a united front on the timetable for European monetary union (EMU) when Carlos Westendorp, the Spanish Foreign Minister, suggested delaying the project if all the main European states were not ready to join.

He said it would be ill-advised to proceed with the January 1999 launch of EMU if Spain, Britain and Italy were not among the founding states. He suggested "stopping the clock", the technique often used in European Union negotiations, to push back deadlines.

Although opposition politicians and commentators across Europe are talking of a delay in the face of the current economic downturn, Señor Westendorp's remarks to reporters in Madrid breached the tacit agreement among European leaders to remain publicly confident on the fate of EMU. Although Goran Persson, the Swedish Finance Minister, made similar remarks on Monday, Señor Westendorp's statement carries weight because of the authority he acquired as chairman of the so-called Reflection Group, the team which prepared the ground for the forthcoming review of the Maastricht treaty.

Señor Westendorp was speaking privately to the journalists, one of whom reported his remarks to the Spanish news agency. It was therefore not intended to be a public statement challenging the current doctrine, but will nonetheless be highly unwelcome in Brussels.

Prostitutes to share £122,000 from EC

BY CHARLES BREMNER

PROSTITUTES in Austria and Spain will benefit from the largesse of the European Commission under a scheme to hand out £4.8 million to combat "social exclusion".

The Commission chose prostitutes' welfare schemes in Vienna and Bilbao among 86 successful applicants. In all, 2,000 applications were made for grants as part of the annual social programme.

Some £122,000 will go to the two welfare programmes, which seek to help the women, through counselling and other means, to get away from prostitution and find work.

The women qualified for help as victims of exclusion and poverty, said the spokeswoman for Padraig Flynn, the Social Affairs Commissioner. "There has been very vigorous selection. It is not a question of handing money over to these people as individuals.

"The Commission will stay in close contact with the beneficiaries as they put their plans into action," a Brussels executive statement said. Most of the grants will go to help drug addicts, the unemployed and "marginalised" young, battered women and elderly people.

Britain and Germany fielded 400 applications each for the grants, the highest number in the European Union. Among nine projects receiving grants in Britain are the Norfolk Adult Education Service and Glasgow University.

Nine projects in Ireland given awards under the guidance of the Irish Commissioner include the Schizophrenia Society of Ireland.

PRODUCT RECALL

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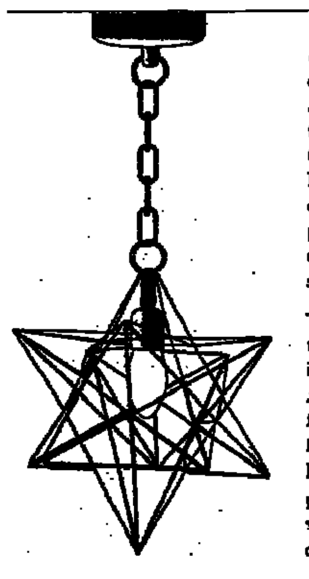

Item number 9525 (small) and item number 9526 (large)

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Assassin tells court he killed Rabin to obey Jewish law

From Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

YIGAL AMIR, a 25-year-old right-wing Jewish law student, yesterday admitted in a Tel Aviv court that he assassinated Yitzhak Rabin at a peace rally on November 4 last year. He said that he had no regrets and boasted that he had shot the Prime Minister "for the glory of God".

In a four-hour court appearance, Mr Amir cited a Jewish law that says an "oppressor" can be killed to save lives. Some religious Jews, notably those living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, applied the "oppressor" title to Rabin because they said his policy of peace with the Palestinians led to deadly suicide attacks on Jewish targets by Islamic militants and the handing over part of the biblical land of Israel to the Arabs. Mr Amir stood up at one point and announced: "Everything I did, I did for the glory of God."

Legal experts observing the hearing predicted that he would receive the mandatory life sentence for the killing when a verdict is handed down. He is living in a special isolation cell in a southern Israeli prison constructed in an attempt to save him from what officials believe are inevitable revenge attacks by fellow inmates.

Hours before the hearing, *Yediot Aharonot*, the Israeli newspaper, published extracts from Mr Amir's interrogation by the Shin Bet internal security service and an account of lie detector tests which showed that there was a possibility he was hiding names of other Jews involved in the killing. According to the transcript Mr Amir, a graduate of two Jewish seminaries, told his interrogators that the religious law under which Rabin was regarded as an "oppressor" was equivalent to a biblical commandment.

"If I was conquering the land now, I would have to kill babies and children as it is written in [the book of] Joshua. I would do it with no moral problem, despite the fact that in retrospect it seems like a moral problem, because it is a commandment," he is reported to have said.

During the interrogation, Mr Amir is also said to have spoken about his admiration for Baruch Goldstein, the Jewish settler from New York who killed 29 Palestinian worshippers in a Hebron mosque in 1994. He is reported to have said that when flirting with girls, he usually asked them first what they thought of Goldstein. "To get to know a person I usually ask one question: 'What do you think about Baruch Goldstein?' That tells me if a girl is attractive or shallow," Mr Amir reportedly told the Shin Bet questioners, one of whom described his method of flirting as "The Goldstein Test".

Amir: he shot victim "for the glory of God"

When Mr Amir was brought into court yesterday, he smiled briefly and at one stage one of his sisters, Hadas, was asked to leave the crowded courtroom for talking during the proceedings. In his statement, the self-confessed assassin contradicted himself several times.

At one point he said he would have settled for removing Rabin from office by severely injuring him. Later he said that after firing the first shot, he fired twice more with bullets specially modified by his brother, Hagai, to make sure the Prime Minister would die. "I did not want to leave any chance that he would stay alive as Prime Minister," Mr Amir told the court.

When asked by Judge Edmond Levy whether he now regretted shooting Mr Rabin, Mr Amir responded swiftly: "No". His main defence lawyer, Jonathan Ray Goldberg, a Jewish settler who emigrated to the occupied West Bank from Texas several years ago, said that he had not wished Mr Amir to make the lengthy statement to the court. Mr Goldberg added that he had asked his client to enter a "not guilty" plea.

Mordechai Offri, Mr Amir's second defence lawyer, told the judge that he wanted to resign from the case because he had been marginalised. Judge Levy responded that it was up to the court to decide whether he could do so, and asked him to be present at the next hearing on Sunday, when the first prosecution witnesses will give evidence.

Amira Yassein and Muhammad Yassein, both eight, at their engagement party in Aqaba, Jordan. According to local newspapers such a public ceremony is unprecedented in the town but private ones are not unknown

Arafat plays the lottery card

By Christopher Walker

LOTTERY fever in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is the latest by-product of Palestinian autonomy. The establishment of the Palestinian National Lottery, complete with scratch cards in the national colours of red, green, white and black, was announced yesterday.

"Now that we have got a legally elected parliament, a President, an anthem, a passport and a radio and television station, we had to have that other attribute of the modern state — our own lottery," a Palestinian journalist said.

Despite fierce resistance from Islamic fundamentalists, who oppose any form of gambling, the lottery, to be run from the West Bank town of Ramallah by a private company operating under guidelines similar to those laid down for Camelot in Britain, has already received the blessing of Yassir Arafat and will make its first televised draw on March 9.

"Since the announcement, the phone has not stopped ringing with people wanting to know when they can start to play," Dima Samman, 32, one of the directors, said. "We have copied a number of other national lotteries, but ours will be unique in that a large share of the profits will go to the families of Palestinian martyrs from the intifada against Israel."

Initially the top prize will be limited to 100,000 shekels (£21,000), compared to the guaranteed minimum first prize of 6 million shekels available in this week's draw for Lotto, the rival Israeli lottery.

Envoys are snubbed by Abacha

By Michael Binyon
Diplomatic Editor

GENERAL SANI ABACHA, the head of the Nigerian military Government, has refused to meet a five-man Commonwealth delegation urging a return to democracy.

Nigeria was suspended from Commonwealth membership after executing Ogoni activists and violating human and civil rights. The Commonwealth resolved to send a delegation of senior foreign ministers to set out for General Abacha the conditions for an end to the suspension and warn him of tougher sanctions if he failed to act.

The delegation, chaired by Nathan Shamuyaria of Zimbabwe, has twice tried to set a date for a meeting with General Abacha, but has been rebuffed. No new date has been set and negotiations have reached a stalemate.

The chief opponent of the mission is Tom Ikimi, the Nigerian Foreign Minister, who is still furious at being ostracised during the Auckland Commonwealth summit last year.

Venezuela sees oil deal as path back to prosperity

From Gabriella Gamini in Caracas

INTERNATIONAL oil companies have promised millions of dollars to rejuvenate Venezuela's ailing oil industry and have bought profit-sharing contracts for rich reserves from the Government.

Venezuela is Opec's third-largest oil producer, with a capacity of 2.9 million barrels a day, but its potential has never been fully exploited by the state-owned company, which has so far controlled the reserves. The return of foreign oil companies to the country, 20 years after the petroleum industry was nationalised, coincides with the thirty-eighth anniversary of Venezuelan democracy and is expected to breathe new life into the country's battered economy, demoralised by high inflation.

Mobil from America led a group of three companies which clinched the contract to exploit the attractive La Ceiba block near Lake Maracaibo, while Dupont, another American-owned company, secured the Gulf of Paria West block, just off the country's north-eastern coast in the Caribbean, Mobil led a consortium that also included Veba Oel of Germany and Japan's Nippon Oil.

The contacts will give the companies 50 per cent of the profits, while the other half remains in government hands. The contracts stipulate a minimum investment of $60 million (£38 million) per block.

"This may mean the beginning of the end of the nation's financial crisis," said Edwin Arrieta, Minister for Energy and Mines, announcing the privatisation.

The Government will also this week officially launch a five-day tender for ten other blocks around the country, opening the door for oil companies to exploit the shores of the Orinoco River.

"We expect to be here for a long time," said Ronald Wilson, president of Mobil's Latin America business venture department. The so-called "oil opening" is expected to boost crude oil production by at least 500,000 barrels a day by 2005.

With its vast oil riches and its proximity to the United States, Venezuela has become important to trading and investment between North and South America. But the country's volatile political situation, exacerbated by government corruption scandals, and inflation of 70 per cent a month, have produced an economic crisis.

Venezuelans are hoping for a return to the oil boom of the 1970s, when their country was the richest in South America. Things took a downward turn when oil prices crashed in the early 1980s.

The oil industry was nationalised in 1976, through a state-holding company Petroleos de Venezuela, and profits were milked as corruption became rife. The poor were given food subsidies and cheap transport, while banks offered special exchange rate deals, until public coffers were empty.

Despite its oil income, Venezuela had to borrow heavily from international banks to pay its bills, with the result that it is now the continent's least stable economy.

Japanese schoolgirls sell their bodies in pursuit of West's designer labels

From Peregrine Hodson in Tokyo

PART-TIME prostitution is a growing industry in Japan among university students, graduates — and schoolgirls. A long recession has made jobs harder to find over the past two years, especially for women.

In desperation, increasing numbers of women graduates have taken to working in "hostess" bars, where sex with their *salariman* customers, although not officially encouraged, is an after-hours optional extra. Some advertise themselves in "dating" magazines with their physical characteristics, telephone numbers and the maximum age of an "ideal" partner — usually up to 50 years. Others give their photographs and personal details to escort agencies for circulation in glossy directories.

Although being paid for sexual intercourse is illegal, the law seems to be honoured more in the breach than the observance. "Soapland" salons offer massage services and "image" clubs entertain clients' fantasies. Popular roles are "nurses", "O. L." (office ladies) and, predictably, "schoolgirls".

But now high-school students are offering the real thing. In a letter to the *Yomiuri* daily newspaper, Junko Iida complains: "I cannot understand today's high-school girls. They seem like hostesses or prostitutes rather than students. Their fashions are indecent — bright-coloured lipstick and nail polish, pagers and mobile telephones, brand-name bags and clothing such as Vuitton, Chanel and Prada. They think it is fashionable to show their underclothes. They will do anything to get money, even selling their lingerie or bodies at date clubs."

For some years in Japan, there has been a brisk trade in used schoolgirls' knickers and school uniforms, but now a new trend has developed. In Nagoya, where sex industry restrictions are laxer than in Tokyo or Osaka, girls have been selling their *meishi*, name cards, with their photographs and telephone numbers, for 3,000 to 5,000 yen (£20 to £35) a card to older businessmen.

At 4pm, after school, groups of 16-year-old girls in school uniform gather outside Kamayama station, offering cards to *salarimen* going home from work. Some offer and expect more. One asked a middle-aged *salariman* for 30,000 yen — about £200 — to show her knickers and, when he refused, suggested dancing as an extra inducement.

Asked whether she feared getting annoying phone calls, a schoolgirl replied: "We use mobile phones — we are not so stupid as to give our home phone numbers."

While the alleged rape of a schoolgirl by US Marines in Okinawa has provoked outrage in Japan and elsewhere, and overshadows relations with America, an increasing number of high-school students earn money by casual sex.

Poverty drives the child prostitutes of Thailand or the Philippines, but Japanese schoolgirls seem to be motivated by the lure of fashion's designer labels.

Massacre trial for ex-leaders

Seoul: South Korean prosecutors charged ex-Presidents Roh Tae Woo and Chun Doo Hwan yesterday with sedition over the 1980 army massacre of pro-democracy activists in Kwangju.

The brutal quelling of the uprising against military rule in the southwestern city is one of the most traumatic chapters in South Korean history.

The two already face mutiny charges over the 1979 coup that propelled them to power. They also face corruption charges for amassing hundreds of millions of dollars during their rule. *(Reuter)*

Ciller offers to share top post

Ankara: Tansu Ciller, Turkey's caretaker Prime Minister, offered to share the premiership with a rival party leader, an apparent breakthrough in tough bargaining for the formation of a conservative coalition.

"I offered Mr Yilmaz a rotating premiership," Mrs Ciller said at a joint news conference with Mesut Yilmaz, the Motherland party leader. But he objected to Mrs Ciller's insistence that she be Prime Minister first. *(Reuter)*

Colombia leader denies drug link

Bogotá: President Samper's future appeared in serious jeopardy after Fernando Botero, the jailed chief of his 1994 campaign, said on television that the leader knew his election bid was funded by the Cali drug cartel.

Troops patrolled Bogotá as President Samper, who has been plagued by the allegations, went on Colombian national television to deny the "slanderous statements". *(AP)*

Muslim leader's travel ban lifted

An Egyptian court agreed to lift a travel ban on Mamoun el-Hobeidi, a leading member of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, the oldest and most influential Islamic activist organisation in the Middle East (Michael Binyon writes). It said there was no proof that he was a security threat or intended to establish ties with other fundamentalists.

Polish Premier's fate in balance

The fate of Jozef Oleksy, the Polish Prime Minister, and his Government dominated by former Communists, hung in the balance as military prosecutors prepared to submit a report on KGB recruitment activities in Warsaw (Roger Boyes writes). The Prime Minister denies espionage.

Hiss of life

Phnom Penh: An entire Cambodian village has taken to worshipping a large python found under a house as a god that can heal the sick, after claiming its presence cured aches and chest pains. *(AFP)*

صورة من الأصل

'Saint Hillary' falls from grace over US sleaze

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA will witness the extraordinary spectacle of its First Lady entering a courthouse in Washington's Pennsylvania Avenue on Friday through scrums of journalists and cameramen. There, she will face a grand jury of 23 citizens that has subpoenaed her because it suspects an obstruction of justice in the White House.

The unprecedented event will mark a dramatic new low point in the fortunes of the brilliant, tough, arrogant lawyer who arrived in the White House in January 1993 determined to transform the country, although she had been elected to nothing.

Three years later "Saint Hillary", as *The New York Times* once dubbed her, is easily the most unpopular First Lady ever and a considerable liability to her husband as he seeks re-election. Most Americans doubt her veracity; a columnist has labelled her a "congenital liar", and she and her husband have been nearly bankrupted by legal costs.

Mrs Clinton's woes originated in the mid-1980s, when her husband was Arkansas Governor. She was a member of Little Rock's Rose Law Firm, and both were partners in the Whitewater development corporation with James McDougal, owner of the failing Madison Guaranty savings and loan bank.

It is now known that Mr McDougal was channelling Madison funds into the Whitewater company, needed favours to keep the bank open from state officials appointed by Mr Clinton, and paid Mrs Clinton a handsome retainer for her legal services. Madison collapsed in 1989 at a cost to the taxpayer of $60 million (£39 million).

Two years ago Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor, subpoenaed the Rose Law Firm's records of how much Mrs Clinton had billed Madison and for what; but the records had vanished.

Since then, much evidence has surfaced to suggest the White House went to great lengths to conceal Mrs Clinton's involvement with Madison.

It emerged that Vincent Foster, the Rose partner who became deputy White House counsel but later killed himself, removed files from the firm during the 1992 campaign.

Then panic engulfed the White House after the 1993 suicide of Mr Foster, who was handling the Whitewater affair. The Senate committee obtained records showing numerous calls that night between Mrs Clinton in Arkansas, Susan Thomases, a lawyer and friend of Mrs Clinton, in New York, and White House aides, three of whom searched Mr Foster's office. A Secret Service agent testified about seeing Maggie Williams, Mrs Clinton's chief of staff, leaving with files — a charge she denies.

> ‘Most Americans doubt her veracity and she and her husband have been nearly bankrupted by legal costs.’

On January 5 — five days after a deadline for suing professionals who fraudulently advised corrupt savings and loans — the White House announced it had found the billing records and released them.

They were covered in Mr Foster's handwriting and showed that Mrs Clinton, who had testified that her work for Madison was "minimal", had put in 60 hours with two particular bursts of activity. One coincided with Madison seeking state approval for a recapitalisation scheme, and the second involved advice on a dubious property transaction that hastened Madison's collapse. Last Thursday Carolyn Huber, a personal aide of the Clintons, told the committee that someone had deposited the long-lost records on a table in the White House private quarters. Mr Starr immediately asked the Whitewater grand jury to subpoena Mrs Clinton, her lawyer and several staff. He is even testing the records for fingerprints.

Mrs Clinton might enjoy more support in her predicament had her credibility not been hurt so badly over the past few weeks by the "Travelgate" affair.

Soon after Mr Clinton took office, the White House sacked seven travel office employees and then called in the FBI to try to substantiate vague allegations against them. It did so on the bidding of Harry Thomason, an old Arkansas friend of the Clintons who was eyeing its business for himself, and put the President's 25-year-old cousin in charge.

The White House press corps reacted furiously. The White House retreated and six were rehired. The seventh was charged with embezzlement, but a jury took barely an hour to acquit him. Mrs Clinton denied any role in the dismissals, but newly subpoenaed memos from White House aides say she pressed hard for the removal of the seven.

There are other counts against Mrs Clinton, ranging from the revelation that she once turned $1,000 into $100,000 on high-risk cattle futures through extensive help from well-placed friends, to her failure to acknowledge the woman who virtually co-authored her new book on children.

The saintly image Mrs Clinton likes to project is thus being replaced by another: of a woman who shared the 1980s greed she publicly condemned; who cares for abstract humanity but stomps on ordinary men; and who is so full of self-righteousness she cannot abide anyone questioning her actions.

Brandt: her discovery is backed by scholars

Cupid emerges from the shadows

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A STATUE of Cupid by Michelangelo has been "found" in the lobby of an old building on Fifth Avenue in New York. For years the priceless artefact has stood feet away from the thundering traffic and thieving throngs, guarded by little more than a doorman.

The building has been owned by the French Government since the 1950s and houses the offices of its Cultural Attaché. Countless cocktail parties have been held in the foyer but the guests, who included Manhattan's most assured aesthetes, were too busy snaffling canapes and sinking champagne to notice the treasure at their side.

The marble statue, depicting a naked youth, has now been credited to Michelangelo by a specialist in 16th century Italian art. Professor Kathleen Weil-Garris Brandt of New York University's Fine Arts Institute says that the work belongs to the young Michelangelo, predating the maestro's Bacchus. She is supported by other scholars, including a senior curator from the National Gallery in London.

The English-born Professor Brandt spotted the statue during one the attaché's recent soirées. It was a rainswept night and she was walking past the door when she saw the statue. "I pressed my nose against the window and murmured 'blimey'," she said yesterday. "It is unfinished, damaged and has been occasionally restored, but it is ravishing — and priceless."

NEW YORK POST

The Michelangelo statue found languishing in the lobby of a New York building

Professor Brandt, who advised the Vatican on the recent restoration of the Sistine chapel, decided to research the statue. She discovered that the piece was acquired in Rome by Stanford White, architect of the elegant Fifth Avenue townhouse he built for the prominent Whitney family in 1906. The Rome vendor described it as a freshly-unearthed antiquity, but Professor Brandt learnt that the statue had earlier been offered at auction in London, where it was catalogued as a Michelangelo. It was returned to Rome after failing to attract its reserve price.

Nicholas Penny, the National Gallery's chief curator for the Italian Renaissance, told *The New York Times* that he is persuaded by Professor Brandt's research and conclusion. The statue, he said, was "too peculiar" to be the work of another artist. "No faker would have given the boy a quiver of arrows made out of a lion's paw. Nor could anyone have faked the back of the head with its curls. It's just too inventive and too idiosyncratic." The statue normally languished in shadows, but on the night Mrs Brandt noticed it there was lighting from below.

Rapid justice capsizes canoeist

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

FOUR months after winning his second world slalom championship, Davey Hearn was bundled into the back of an American police car and arrested for riding his canoe down the swollen white waters of the Potomac River.

In a sport where the "perfect wave" is everything, canoeists from Virginia and Maryland had waited ten years for the river to hit 18ft on the Little Falls Gorge, 13ft above the level at which the untrained are warned to stay away. That moment came this week when the snow that had buried Washington started to melt, creating a paddling paradise on the coursing Potomac.

For Mr Hearn, who lives in nearby Bethesda, the cascading rapids have become the obstacles which have moulded his career. When the river reached its previous record levels in 1985, he had been the first to join 20 expert canoeists for a day on the surf. Clearly, there was never any intention that the gold medallist would miss this latest opportunity.

He and three friends agreed to launch their boats despite barricades and signs warning that the river was closed. Mr Hearn, running late after an indoor training session for the 1996 Olympics, never saw his colleagues, who had launched upstream, when he placed his vessel in the water at an unguarded spot.

He encountered instead the wrath of Lieutenant David Stover of the Park Police who first told him to leave the rapids and then, aided by a helicopter and other officers, leapt into the water to grab and capsize the boat and wrestle its owner to shore.

Arrested and handcuffed, Mr Hearn was charged with resisting arrest, and failure to obey the order of an officer — which both carry fines of up to $1,000 (£650) and a year in jail — and violation of a river closure notice.

After his release for later trial the canoeist, who had ridden the river for at least an hour, said he was the victim of wrongful arrest. "It was the perfect wave. I could ride it back and forth and never even touch my paddle," Mr Hearn said. "I could have stayed all day, but not with helicopters hovering and people yelling. It's unclear to me why they have the power to close the river. I think once you're on the water, you're on your own."

Lieutenant Stover, who had been unaware that he was dealing with a world champion, was unrepentant yesterday. "It makes no difference," he said. "It was not a recreational situation out there. Whether Mr Hearn thinks so or not, I feel I rescued him."

Republicans told to behave

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

ANGRY Republican congressmen were being drilled on etiquette yesterday as tension between Congress and the White House threatened to turn President Clinton's State of the Union speech last night into an ugly partisan spectacle.

Republican leaders were warning rank-and-file members to suppress their desire to jeer or boo the President, because such behaviour would anger the roughly 50 million Americans who were expected to watch the event on television.

For his part, Mr Clinton was expected to skate over his bitter and unresolved battle with the Republican Congress over how to balance the budget and, by extension, to shrink the Government without shredding America's social safety net. He was expected to sound a conciliatory note. Nor was the President expected to dwell on the problems of Hillary Clinton, who was planning to sit in the front row of the gallery.

Mr Clinton spent the day rewriting and polishing his address, and was intending to use it to spell out his vision for America's future as it approaches the 21st century and his case for a second term.

Mike McCurry, the White House press secretary, said Mr Clinton would emphasise America's economic progress since he took office. "The economy is strong. It's growing. Inflation is low. Unemployment is low. The so-called misery-index is at a generation-length low," he said.

Mr Clinton was also likely to emphasise foreign policy accomplishments in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Haiti, the Middle East and Northern Ireland, and to name Barry McCaffrey as the new White House drugs czar.

Robert Dole, the Senate leader and Republican presidential front-runner, selected himself to deliver the Republicans' official response, thereby ensuring himself a huge dollop of free time on national television.

Brit-pop in US Top 10

New York: Two British rock groups have made the Top 10 charts in America, marking a welcome breakthrough for new "Brit-pop" after years when only veterans such as the Beatles and Eric Clapton seemed able to prevail (Quentin Letts writes).

Oasis and the lesser-known Bush, whose lead singer was educated at Westminster, have made numbers nine and five, respectively, in the latest Billboard album chart. Bush's *Sixteen Stone* is its debut album, while Oasis, with *(What's the Story) Morning Glory?*, has benefited from a much publicised tussle last summer with another British group, Blur.

New York blows its covers

BY QUENTIN LETTS

MANHOLE covers in New York have been sent flying in the air by subterranean blasts.

The exploding covers, compared to "landmines waiting to be stepped on", have shattered windows, overturned cars and injured pedestrians.

A series of explosions has been traced back to 1992. They seem to happen when the weather is at its coldest and officials at Con Edison, New York's power supply company, believe salt used to keep ice off the city's roads is to blame.

Salty water may be seeping on to electricity cables beneath the manholes, eroding their outer layer and so creating a short circuit. That, in turn, ignites methane or other gases that have built up from sewage or from the rotting of the cable.

The blasts are not connected to New York's celebrated steam which rises, Dantesque, from holes in the ground — that is caused by cold waste water passing over hot subterranean pipes carrying steam to heat high-rise buildings.

"We are not certain about the cause of the explosions, but we believe the salt is to blame," Richard Molieri, a Con Edison spokesman, said yesterday. "Some of the explosions are just a little pop. Others can be worse."

Since 1992 free-flying manhole covers have caused one death, 34 injuries, and flipped over a Brooklyn car.

A Manhattan building was evacuated after one explosion, and a startled Cardinal O'Connor of New York had his windows broken.

Professor Sam Schwartz, a former city engineer, said: "It's frightening and dangerous, as if New Yorkers don't have enough to worry about."

However, New York has 250,000 manholes and, so far, only 85 have been lifted. In lesser incidents, there have been fires.

Mr Molieri said that research was continuing to discover the exact cause of the explosions.

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'The one thing I regret is not having flings'

Omar Sharif, now 63, still lives the life of a bachelor playboy. He talks to **Mary Riddell** about his passion for women, gambling and playing bridge

What, you wonder, are the toughest moments for the world's greatest heart-throb (retired). The awareness that one's hair is greying and one's waistline is thickening a trifle? Locating one's teeth by the bedside in the morning?

Although not a vain man, Omar Sharif is swift to set the record straight on the dentures. "Actually, I do have nine teeth left. But, yes, my hair is getting thin, or so I have been informed by people who look up there.

"I understand your question, but being a heart-throb never affected my life. I don't live with my image. I live with my friends — with people who train horses and play bridge."

It has been Omar's habit over countless years to convert his pay cheques into thoroughbred horseflesh. Bridge, a game he learnt to while away idle moments when he was filming *Lawrence of Arabia*, is his second passion.

Today, he begins his challenge in the Macallan International Pairs Championship knowing that he ranks among the best bridge players in the world. And yet he is modest.

"I can still play well over a limited period of time. My mental faculties are good, although not as good as those of a 40-year-old."

Omar is 63 now, and it is fair to assume that his judgment at least has improved with age. How long it seems since he lost £750,000 in a single evening's gambling, how long since he and Peter O'Toole sold their passports in the lavatory to defray their losses at cards.

It has, what with one thing and another, seemed an intemperate life. Omar, blue-blazered ornament of the world's leading bridge tournament, balks at the word.

"I had a much more temperate life than most actors. I smoked a lot [60 a day until he gave up recently], but I never drank much. I had one heart bypass — which is not extraordinary. I only married once [to the Egyptian actress Faten Hamama], and I didn't have a lot of affairs.

"I would say that Hugh Grant is much more intemperate than me. I'm not talking about that particular incident, simply that he has a girlfriend and I do not."

Sharif and Barbra Streisand

But Omar, you were once said to have accumulated 25,000 marriage proposals in a month. In addition, it barely seems five minutes since an Italian popped up in *Hello!* magazine, talking about the child you had together.

Languid he may be, not to mention charming and possessed of an informal way with female interviewers. "More tea, darling?" he will ask at solicitous intervals. But there is nothing that Omar Sharif likes more than a good debate.

He stares fiercely through gold-rimmed spectacles, and the limpid brown eyes burn, *Zhivago*-style. "It takes two seconds to have a child. If every time a man makes love he has a child, you could have thousands."

This sounds like the arithmetic of a life of flings. "Flings, flings. I don't have flings. I admit to making love once a month on average, but that is not flings. As a matter of fact it's the only thing I regret, not having flings.

"No long-term relationships either. I never had a relationship that lasted more than three months. I had to travel all over the globe, and, quite honestly, a woman who packs suitcases and follows you around would be a very boring person. I like a woman who will fight and discuss and argue. I don't like object women or women who cook for me. I hate that."

You see the problem. Neither Anouk Aimée nor Catherine Deneuve nor Barbra Streisand — three of the women with whom he has been linked — is known for her skill in rustling up beans on toast for tea.

"Streisand wasn't a liaison. I had a lot of affection for her while we were making *Funny Girl* — sometimes reciprocated, sometimes not. I was a father figure. We parted on good terms, and the friendship still goes on. If she has a problem, I will try to help."

Suddenly, he says: "I know this will sound very Freudian, but my mother is still living, and perhaps if she weren't I would have had a different life.

"My son, Tarek, lived with me as a child. His mother was not there all the time, and now he is marrying for the third time because he must have women around him. I, who had an always-present mother, do not feel like that."

And yes, he says, sometimes he is lonely. His Egyptian nationality has decreed for him a life itinerant even by Hollywood standards. He has traipsed the world for work and film parts to pay his debts and now, at last, he plans to abandon Paris, his only base, for Cairo and his roots.

Bar the odd few seconds, he has liked none of his 50 films but he has not the slightest intention of retiring. This spring he will appear in the cameo role of The Sorcerer in the Channel 4 mini-series, *Gulliver's Travels*, currently being promoted in America.

On his other recent film role — a home video — he is more diffident. Ask him if his fast-lane existence has translated into something more tranquil, and he hesitates. "Actually, no. I sleepwalk now, since I gave up smoking. I set up a video and filmed myself doing it. I have tried not to eat too much, so perhaps this is my body defending itself. I munch out of the fridge or mini-bar, and in the morning I find the wrappers in the bin."

But do not think him troubled, for he is not. A great admirer of women, he has long since abandoned any thoughts of marriage. "Quite simply, I never met the right person."

His is the bachelor lifestyle, pared-down and full of foibles. His wardrobe contains rows of identical and expensive navy blazers, and he complains about the irksome details of a nomadic existence. "I hate those Victorian English taps. Hot and cold. No mixers. How am I supposed to shave?"

A small price to pay, for this week he is happy. The luminaries of the bridge world drift in and out of his London hotel suite. "Omar, how good to see you again. Dinner? Where shall we go?"

A filmstar to the core, Omar says San Lorenzo. But he has no particular wish to be in the public eye, for this is a more peaceful interlude.

Effortlessly talented at many sports — he was an Egyptian football international and a fine cricketer — he has clung to bridge through the wayward and the sober years.

'Marriage? Quite simply, I never met the right person'

He likes the atmosphere, likes the contestants, likes the competition. But perhaps most of all, he enjoys the uncertainty.

"I am a fatalist. Things weave into a pattern. If I hadn't lost £750,000 in a night, I wouldn't have made a particular film. If I hadn't stayed in one day with a cold, I might have met the woman of my life.

"Oh, I've been lucky. I've been on the verge of being broke, but then money has come raining in from heaven. Something always turns up."

In other words, when Omar sits down for his first contest today, he will merely be doing what he has always done. Simply playing the cards he is dealt.

● *The Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championships are being held at the White House, Albany Street, London NW1, from today until Friday.*

MARTIN BEDDALL

Omar Sharif: "I like a woman who will fight and discuss and argue. I don't like object women or women who cook for me. I hate that."

INSIDE SECTION 2

Sir Francis Drake: first-rate sea-dog or third-rate pirate? Arguments rage on the 400th anniversary of his death
Page 37

Rachel Kelly on the latest member to join the Literary Society

Secrets of an elite men-only club

THE Literary Society's January dinner is always its best-attended as, traditionally, the president announces who has been elected as the newest member of the all-male club.

This month, it was the turn of Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's devoted private secretary, who received a congratulatory letter and a request for the £40 subscription fee.

Thirty club members gathered for the unplaced three-course dinner in the Milne room at the Garrick Club. With schoolboyish glee, they heard the news delivered by the president and Tory historian, Lord Blake.

Competition was stiff for the single place on the 60-strong club left vacant by the death last year of Mark Bonham-Carter. It matters who proposes and who seconds and blackballing is rife. Lord Howe of Aberavon famously was rejected two years ago.

Sir Robert Fellowes

A club membership list hints at why Sir Robert's election is a small earthquake on the Establishment scene. This is the club that even Groucho Marx would make an exception for.

William Waldegrave and Roy Jenkins are members. So is the philosopher Sir Isaiah Berlin. The philosopher and former President of Trinity College, Oxford, Lord Quinton dines regularly. Sir Nicholas Henderson, formerly our man in America, is there. So are scribblers such as Frank Johnson, the Editor of *The Spectator*, Sir Peregrine Worsthorne, Alexander Chancellor, Duff Hart-Davis, John Joliffe, John Grigg, Derwent May, Philip Howard, Anthony Howard and A.N. Wilson. Grandees include the Duke of Devonshire; the historians Sir Steven Runciman and Sir Michael Howard; the novelists Anthony Powell and V.S. Pritchett; and Lord Armstrong of Ilminster.

You don't have to be published to join: just a good chap with ideas who will be convivial company. It is, says Lord Blake, a "congenial dining club, though most members have written something at some time".

Women are not allowed, although Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was once brought to dinner by Lord Blake.

No one will speak openly of the Lit Soc, as it is known. But why such secrecy? "Why not?" Lord Blake says. "It's a club. There's a very strong tradition: never blab."

Why was Sir Robert elected? "There is a tradition of a connection with official figures at Buckingham Palace. And, obviously, they can't publish anything." Lord Charteris of Amisfield, for example, is a member.

The club provides a chance to gossip, a chance to network, a solace for the lonely and a retreat for the harassed. In a year already teeming with royal scandals, that could prove handy for Sir Robert.

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Why can't British women win at work without feeling ashamed?

A survey shows American businesswomen are pushier than their British counterparts. **Kimberly Fortier** agrees

CHRIS HARRIS

Pushy — or simply goal orientated? Kimberly Fortier suffered culture shock when she came to London from America

I'LL GET right to the point, since this is what American women are best known for. In business, a survey by the European Women's Management Development Network shows, American women are plain-speaking and goal-orientated. To the average Brit-at-his-desk, this translates as pushy and ambitious. Whatever you call it, it seems to work. And that's the rub.

Why do we American women march into a business function, introduce ourselves to the chairman, and deliver a kind of mission statement? There are a million cultural and individual explanations for the differences between the way British and Americans work. They fall into a few simple categories.

National temperament. Americans have a firm belief in "manifest destiny" — we are born to fill an entire continent. Trouble in Ireland? We somehow believe that sending our President to switch on the Christmas lights will solve everything. Americans still have an empire-led mixture of confidence and romantic idealism. A 19th-century Englishman would understand this. A 20th-century Englishman would not.

Class system. America has a class system both devilishly complex and uniquely simplistic. It has to do with power, which has to do with money, which usually has to do with job. Americans define themselves by their jobs. I once "rested" for a year, and it nearly killed me. Now, whenever I don't want to get out of bed, I remember that year — those nagging self-doubts, the flagging dinner party conversation as men leant over me to talk to other people. To an American, you are what you do, no matter who your great-grandmother was.

Ambition. When I was with *GQ* magazine, we sponsored an Oxford Union debate. The topic was *"I'd rather appear an effortless gentleman than an overwhelming achiever"*. Effortless gentleman won hands down. It has taken me years to figure out that the British don't like overt ambition, while Americans see it as a top-billed virtue. We don't really think Scarlet Pimpernel. We think Andrew Carnegie. After three months in my first UK job, I sat down with my boss to discuss my *AMBITIONS*. "How," I wanted to know, "should I go about improving myself, therefore improving my position within the company?" He laughed.

The editorial team began to hum *If I Ruled the World* when I came in with breathless ideas for a better magazine. (I was, of course, the most insignificant person on the magazine's masthead.) I am still puzzled by the tag applied to me of (negative pause) "ambitious". It seemed so natural simply to state my goal and try to find out what I should be doing to achieve it.

Grandstanding. This is a terrific American term. It means working your tail off, and then bragging to everyone within earshot about your hard-earned successes. We also invented the slogan "no pain, no gain". I used to report regularly to my UK colleagues on my efforts. "I was here until 11 last night", or "I'll have to work all weekend to get this done". Every Brit to the last one replied: "Don't." But I've noticed the (very English) man I work for sneaks in at 6am, so that he can leave with everyone else, pretending to work a normal day, achieving great things with effortless ease. *Confusing.*

Embarrassment. The British are so admirable. In times of war they stand alone against massed enemies. They will queue for hours hoping for a can of Spam. They will even accept that there's no water in Yorkshire.

The one thing a Brit won't stand for is being embarrassed. And almost everything embarrasses them. Introducing themselves to a stranger. Offering a service. Closing a deal. It's all so pushy, so self-important, just too awful to consider. Americans, on the other hand, have a very high water mark for embarrassment.

The last time I was truly embarrassed was when my stockings fell down around my ankles in the midst of crossing Regent Street (don't ask). After *that* escapade, introducing myself to the head of the BBC was small fry.

Networking. The British hate the whole idea. The truth is, most Brits simply know everyone else, or at least the key players. And they have known them for several centuries. But Americans in Britain have to network. Otherwise, the only people we would ever speak to would be taxi drivers and other Americans.

The British have a terrific defence mechanism against the networking American — an incredibly dry put-down technique. Luckily, as an American, you haven't quite figured it out (see ambition and embarrassment, above). You will probably just think they're nice. In the end they will capitulate and agree to go to lunch. After about 75 years, they will invite you home to dinner.

● *Kimberly Fortier is the Communications Director of Condé Nast.*

The trouble with British businesswomen is that they are simply too embarrassed, says **Giles Coren.** No wonder their American rivals win every time

■ ON A company bonding weekend in the country, you are invited to play a game of tennis with the chairman. What he doesn't know is that *you were once a Wimbledon junior champion*:

US: Donna McSpleen, wearing a white Lycra catsuit and a headband, brandishes her £280 graphite Wilson Sledgehammer and informs the boss of her pedigree. She has him running all over the court to the point of cardiac emergency, and after winning the first set to love, informs him that his backhand could use a little work.

UK: Dorothy Small, on the other hand, keeps quiet. She says she hasn't played for a while and, trying to avoid looking pushy, pretends she is unable to return his pat-a-cake serves. Afterwards, in her neatly ironed Ann Jones skirt, dangling her wooden Maxply Fort, she tells him how he puts men half his age to shame, and what a great athlete he must have been once.

■ A COMPANY car becomes available:

US: Donna McSpleen walks into the office and throws an open copy of *Performance Car* onto the table. "I *must* have an Aston Martin DB7, in red. With a driver. I *am* my car," she says. "People associate me with what I drive, though I don't give a damn for cars, personally. My car must say *power, thrust, attitude*. It must say Top of the Range."

UK: Dorothy Small is terribly excited and thinks it best not to make too many demands just yet. When the fleet manager phones her she says: "Ooh, a Ford Mondeo. How posh." "Do you want the 16-valve?" he asks. "Oh, I don't think so," she replies. "One will be enough." She will secretly miss seeing old friends on the bus and, worried about damaging the new vehicle, will soon revert to the number 28.

■ YOU ARE invited to a high-powered cocktail party after work:

US: Ms McSpleen, who has a favourite seat at the Paris shows and whose measurements Karl Lagerfeld knows off by heart, tries to envisage the sort of party it will be. She goes to work in a black cocktail dress — as she often does anyway, knowing that 1990s daywear is influenced by evening dress — but with a Chanel jacket for the office. Carefully selected jewellery is applied later, and the jacket removed to reveal tanned shoulders and surgically enhanced bosom.

UK: Dorothy, who never feels quite comfortable in designer labels and anyway believes such an outlay on clothes can never be justified, prefers to shop instead at Marks & Spencer, where she has a store card. She suffers a sleepless night worrying that she will look dowdy, but at the same time she knows she must not look as if she is trying too hard. Like all British women, she can envisage only two different types of dress: frilly *taffeta* costume or *M&S* standards. She opts for the safe navy suit she bought for her sister's wedding, and puts on a nice pair of earrings in the taxi.

■ AT THE party, you espy a group of big players standing *in a circle talking*:

US: Donna McSpleen has two tactics. The best option is to find someone you know well, and ask them to introduce you — it must be someone who likes you and will give you a big build-up. You then address your target with the words: "*I can't tell you how* glad I am to meet you — I have been wanting to for years." So what if the British think you might have ulterior motives — that is what business *is*. There is no point pretending.

If there is no one to introduce her, Donna walks up to the group, identifies the dominant male and says: "Sorry to butt in, but didn't I see you in Quag's the other day?" Even if you didn't, you guess he will be flattered that you think you did. Either way, you're in.

UK: Dorothy Small perspires a little, and plucks another spritzer from a passing waiter. She sidles over and hovers on the periphery of the group. She smiles at the jokes, and nodds occasionally, thinking: "I'll say something when the *fat one's finished speaking*." The fat one never does finish speaking, and she scuttles away after a while reflecting that one doesn't really want to draw attention to oneself.

■ PRESENTING your card:

US: Donna had hers embossed on vellum by Ralph Lauren, gilt edged, with her e-mail address in hologram, and just a little too large to be dispatched into the credit card pocket of a wallet. Asked for it, she replies: "Sure, and let's do *breakfast*."

UK: Dorothy offers hesitantly: "Would you like my card? The company gave me stacks, but I never seem to use them. I'm afraid they still say '01', and we don't have a telex any more. Had them for years. It never seems the right moment *does it? And then you only go* and lose it" (small titter).

■ DICTATING a letter:

US: Donna buzzes her secretary on the intercom: "Sly, leave your nails alone and get plugged into that tube. I want *you to give that schmuck* Levinson the usual brush-off, 'She's out with the Kennedys and won't be back till next *year' etc etc. And have* a *draft* of the Weinfeld contract sent to my lawyers. And Sly, I want it there by yesterday."

UK: Dorothy, of course, potters down to the typing pool. "Mrs Walters, would you mind awfully typing this letter for me, it's only short. No real hurry. I hate to burden you with it so late in the afternoon . . . Oh, well, I suppose I *might as well type it myself*. No point wasting your time, and I could do with the practice."

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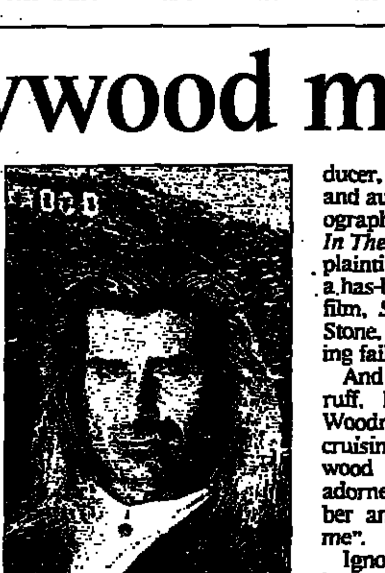
And why can't Hollywood men be men?

Hollywood has spawned its own special breed of truly excruciating males. **Giles Whittell** reports from America on the crass, the craven and the corrupt

As the film industry totters toward the end of the millennium churning out ever-increasing numbers of crass and corny action movies, Hollywood has become, more than ever, a magnet for men as crass and craven as their product.

This desperate breed is currently being examined in *Hollywood Men*, an ITV four-part series. Last week's episode featured Fabio, whose terracotta-tan and artfully tousled hair have made him both a cover model and the laughing stock of men everywhere; he is joined in future episodes by two other outlandish rogues and a figure of truly tragic hopelessness.

There is Mark Harris, a 46 year-old "showbiz promoter" whose only success has been in promoting himself. Calling himself the Phantom of the Kitchen — "everything Liberace did with the piano, I did with pots and pans" — he wormed his way into the world of Beverly Hills power-brunching and cashed out spectacularly three years ago by marrying Martha Raye, a 78-year-old comedienne who had recently suffered a stroke. He is due to inherit her $2.4 million estate.



Fabio: a laughing stock

There is Robert Evans, producer, former cocaine-addict and author of a tell-all autobiography called *The Kid Stays In The Picture*. The title was a plaintive cry for attention from a has-been whose "comeback" film, *Sliver*, starring Sharon Stone, proved an embarrassing failure.

And there is Dennis Woodruff, loser personified. Mr Woodruff spends his time cruising the streets of Hollywood in a beat-up Cadillac adorned with his phone number and the message, "Hire me".

Ignored in all this are at least some regular guys among the industry's thousands of worker bees: the agents, publicists, attorneys, "development executives", musicians and writers. Such people do exist.

My friend Yale Udoff, for example, manages to make screenwriting look like a normal nine-to-five job. Married to an estate agent, he has an office which he goes to every day in his favourite tweed jacket to write.

But his noble sort of toil is exceptional. Sooner or later, most men who come to Hollywood go native. Whether with drugs or diet pills, on the beach or in the gym, they end up conforming to the city's stereotypes.

Even the élite of creative talent is no less a caricature of itself than the peons at the bottom of the food chain.

Tom Arnold, whose career was launched by his first wife, the ribald but dowdy Roseanne, dumped her the moment *True Lies* made him a star. Jean-Claude Van Damme, the "muscles from Brussels" who has wrought a family-man image to counter his screen violence, seems *about to fall from grace thanks* to reports this week of a dalliance with a porn star. And no more need be said about the deeply human flaws Hugh Grant revealed on Sunset Strip.

It is no coincidence that the industry's real survivors are those who do not actually live in Hollywood. Harrison Ford spends every minute he can between films in splendid isolation on his ranch in Wyoming. Dennis Quaid has emigrated there as well. His film career may have stalled, but his marriage to Meg Ryan is intact and, rumour has it, so is his sanity.

● *Hollywood Men* is on ITV tomorrow at 9pm.

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Alan Coren

■ Worried by the state of the English novel? Help from on high is at hand

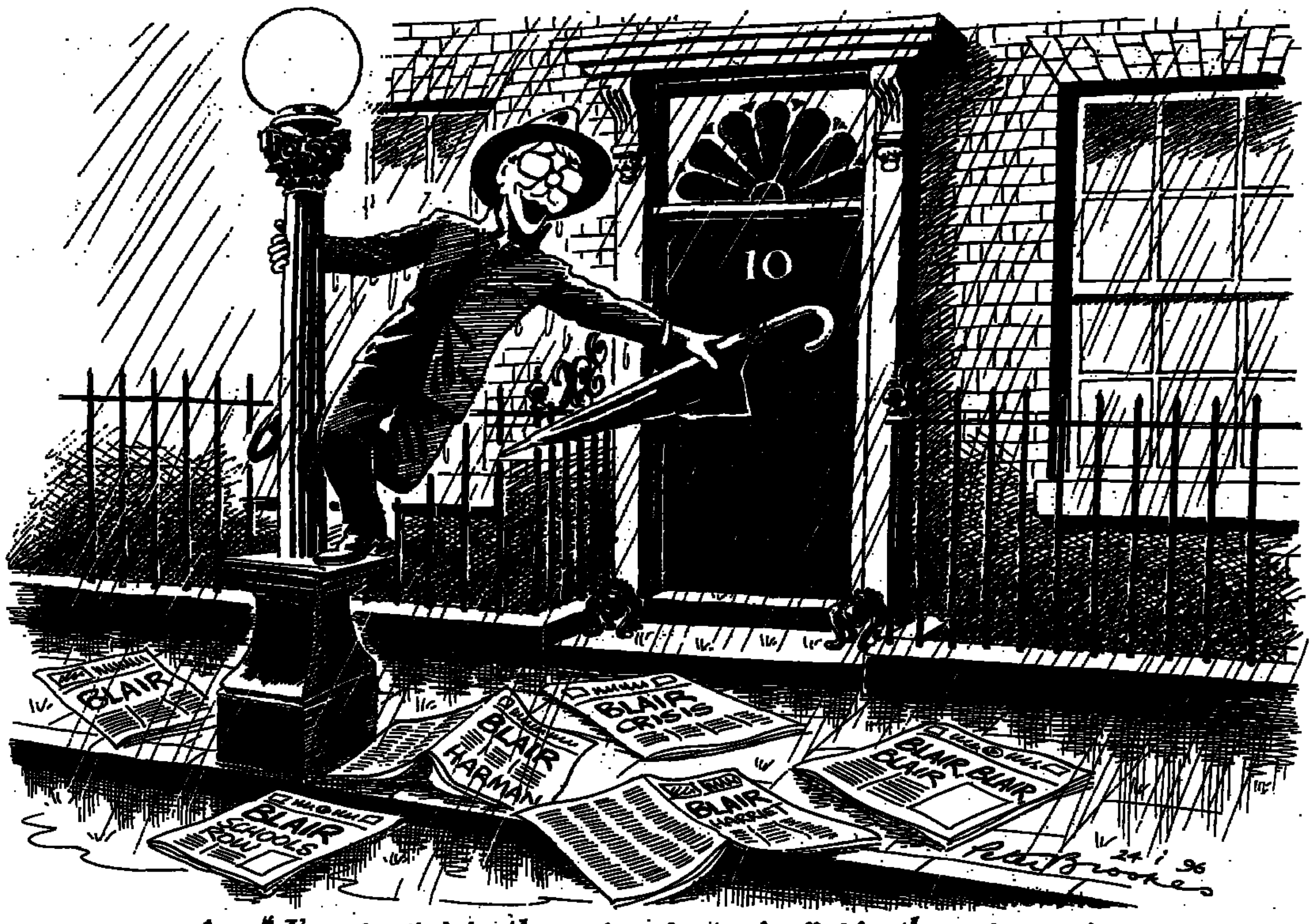
Walk into any of Cricklewood's great public houses these days, and you will find your heart wrenched by the pitiful spectacle of strong men huddled glumly at tables, aimlessly doodling a finger in the froth of their untouched stout, silently piling pork scratchings into little curly wigwams, or merely sitting with their heads in their hands, raising them only to wipe the sleeves of their donkey jackets across their reddened eyes. Others, perhaps, will be leaning motionless on the window sills staring into the sleet, or slumped at the bar picking their teeth with darts they lack the zest to fling, or abstractedly dismembering roll-ups they would no doubt have lit had they but found the will to turn their thoughts to which of their trouser pockets had the matches in.

What can it be that has brought them to this distracted pass? It is, of course, the current state of the English novel. In common with millions throughout the land, these men can think of little else. Where, they ask themselves — for they have only themselves left to ask: they are no longer able to discuss it with one another; they are all talked out — are the heirs of the Great Tradition, men and women able not only to dip their nibs in the pure well of English undefiled but also to address them to those universal and eternal themes that once swept English fiction to unprecedented heights at which the rest of the scribbling world could only gasp and goggle? What, goes the sad mumble, are we offered now but the convoluted witterings of self-indulgent miniaturists, or the sterile mimickings of this or that modish foreign icon or, saddest of all, that desperate need for pith which drives the themeless novelist back to a more fertile past to offer us his speculations on cultures he never inhabited, heroes he never knew and wars he never fought?

Well, I mumbled all that myself, until just now. Just now, I put down a brilliant modern English novel I read at a single sitting, and when I tell you that that single sitting began just before just now, you will know that it is not only a brilliant novel but a short one, too. And none the worse for that: though it manages effortlessly to encompass the great eternal themes — birth, love, courage, human bonding, mortal fear, transcendent faith, all that — it does so with a crystalline concision that leaves *haiku* at the post. It has only 988 words. More yet, it is as daringly experimental as it is successfully so. I tell you, there has never been a hero like this.

This is the story. Living in a remote (but idyllic) farmhouse, a lovely woman heavy with imminent child is cut off by snow at the first pang of labour, unable to get to hospital because her husband, though he worships her, cannot start his car, and their devoted dog, Farckle, can only wag his tail (*a fine touch; would Hardy have thought of Farckle?*). Tragically, the hero, who alone might save her, is not merely miles away, but frozen solid. What is to be done? Faith is to be done: God — in the thinly disguised person of a Mr Chumpy, who suddenly materialises *ex machina* — throws a bucket of hot water over the hero who, divinely thawed out, flies in search of the remote (but idyllic) farmhouse, not knowing that it is by now completely hidden by snow. By an amazing stroke of fortune, however, three pairs of red long johns have been left on the washing line, on spotting which the hero lands, gathers up Mrs Fairweather (*good name, eh?*) and ports her to hospital, where she is delivered of a fine baby boy, whose parents instantly name him Jack B. Fairweather. The B is in honour of the hero and rightly so, because though Mr Fairweather — clearly having read a fair bit of magical realism in his time — treats talking helicopters as commonplace, he recognises that this particular one is a bit special.

I have to tell you that, having been engrossed in the book for nearly a whole minute, I finally closed *Budgie and the Blizzard* to find myself moved beyond admiration. I bought it only because I was curious to discover what Mr Frank Pearl, the renowned lawyer and hotelier, had seen in it to warrant his multimillion-dollar deal to publish it in the United States, but, believe me, I am curious no longer.



♫ "I'm singin' in the rain, just singin' in the rain
What a glorious feelin', I'm hap-hap-happy again." ♫

Tough on hypocrisy?

The organised hysteria of Harriet Harman's critics, Tory and Labour, obscures the truth about selection

Simon Jenkins

Those who would change the world often wonder if that also includes their children. All men may be born equal, with an inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. But when we see Johnny gurgling in his cradle, the temptation to place the teeniest silver spoon in his adorable mouth can be overwhelming. A Texan mother, Wanda Holloway, is presently on trial for plotting a murder to help her daughter's cheerleading career. "God," she said, "the things you do for your children."

Harriet Harman must be thinking the same. Her son Joe's 11-plus success has not only won him a place at St Olave's grammar school in Orpington. It has riven her party and earned Joe the John Major award for gift horse of the year. E.M. Forster prayed that, if forced to choose between his country and his friends, he would have the courage to choose his friends. Ms Harman feels the same way about her party versus her family. She has opted for her family, to howls of derision from Tories who claim to defend that battered institution.

When politicians accuse one another of hypocrisy, the world claps a handkerchief to its nose and watches the steaming ordure piling on stage. The stench rising over the Commons yesterday was unendurable. I have heard Ms Harman give as good as she is now getting to those who use private healthcare rather than the NHS. But in the matter of Joe's schooling I am on her side. There is no incompatibility in seeking to reform a public service and yet continuing to use it in its pre-reformed state.

The creaming of southeast London primary schools by St Olave's grammar blatantly undermines the ability of rival schools to develop good sixth-forms. (I speak as a former governor of one of its rivals, Archbishop Tenison's.) The schools available to Ms Harman have all been victims of this cross-border raiding, encouraged by the Government's league table obsession. St Olave's is reportedly six times oversubscribed and parental choice is meaningless. Pupils are chosen by it, as in other selective systems such as Kent, Trafford and Redbridge. Nor is St Olave's likely to expand to admit all who want to come to it under Mr Major's former policy of parental choice. Its league ranking would plummet. That is why Mr Major appears to have switched his policy to supporting selection.

Politicians must live in this world, not in some idealised one. They everywhere risk the charge of hypocrisy. I am sure Ms Harman's Labour tormentors, such as Clare Short and Peter Hain, drive around town in cars when it suits them, defying Labour's commitment to public transport. I am sure that they claim mortgage interest tax relief, even if they might be against it. I am sure Tories now inveighing against divorce reform would make use of the "quickie" procedure if it suited them. Politicians demand jail sentences for drunk drivers, yet plenty drink and drive. They rail against those who smoke marijuana yet abuse themselves with alcohol and nicotine. For decades they condemned the poor to the horrors of high-rise architecture while tucking themselves snugly into neo-Georgian and neo-Tudor.

Or let us come closer to the point. Mr Major says he is tough on hypocrisy. Let him show the public one case of a Tory MP who would follow the logic of his new enthusiasm for selective education. Let his child sit and, for the sake of the argument, fail the 11-plus, be refused a grammar place and be sent off to a local secondary modern. Mr Major claims that under new selection, all schools would enjoy equality of esteem. That is what they said in 1944. Tell that to any south London school competing with St Olave's. I repeat, let the first Tory MP whose child fails the 11-plus and agrees to go to a secondary modern be the first to cry hypocrisy.

This utterly confused debate is being given top billing in what is already called the "run-up" to the next election. Let us restate some first principles. The right of a parent (or a patient) to use private money to buy a personal service is surely absolute. If I do not like some part of the welfare state, I can opt out, provided that I pay taxes to benefit the rest. Going private is a form of redistributive taxation. In education, the proportion of children involved is small, roughly 8 per cent depending on definition.

How best to organise the public education sector is a different matter. It involves public money and should be based on equity. I may use private medicine, yet still believe that state medicine should not be skewed to benefit the middle class, the young or the economically active. The same applies to publicly financed education. For a quarter of a century after the war, British school administrators channelled children at the early age of 11 into grammar, technical or "modern" institutions for the rest of their schooldays.

For the quarter who were sent to grammar schools this was, not surprisingly, a success. Grammar schools did well because the cards were stacked in their favour. The 11-plus did boost the intake of working-class children to grammar schools, but it mostly entrenched a heavily subsidised middle-class ghetto within the state system. This was seen as not only unfair but also inefficient. For the 75 per cent rejected, it caused intense bitterness and yielded Britain the worst record for staying on at school in Europe. Hardly anybody thought it worked. It was all but abolished.

Mr Major's recent speeches suggest that he intends to avoid the "evils" of selection by parents somehow choosing a secondary school on the basis of its specialism in a subject. The school will then be allowed to "select" the most apt child. It is hard to believe that Mr Major or his advisers understand school administration. All enrolment is to some degree planned: the question is what criteria should be used where a school is oversubscribed. The idea of a range of local schools being specialised by subject and then open to free parental choice is meaningless. As for a parent or a teacher predicting a child's subject specialism at 11, this is crass. If selection there is to be, at least base it on the crude equity of the old 11-plus.

The comprehensive revolution suffered from coinciding with a period of politicised nonsense about how schools should be run internally. No good secondary school can avoid streaming. The important question is at what age and in what form. This applies at "comprehensive" Eton as at comprehensive Holland Park. There have been dozens of models for achieving this without segregating at 11. They include multi-site campuses, streamed middle schools, selective high schools starting at 14 or 15 and selective sixth-form colleges. Already the divide between sixth-forms and technical colleges is being eroded, as it is between universities and polytechnics. By redistributing cash between institutions, policy bolstered the less fortunate without penalising success.

Mr Major's desire to revive selection at 11 should be a gift to Labour. It has been wrong-footed not so much by Mr Blair or Ms Harman as by its oath of silence on any controversial area of policy. The normally articulate education spokesman, David Blunkett, has yet to explain what "no selection, read my lips" means in the case of schools such as St Olave's. It must mean a pledge that Labour will force such schools to take a broad-based local intake and not be allowed to "vacuum up" bright pupils from other boroughs.

Mr Blunkett should be able to boast that the reorganisation that his party sponsored in the 1960s was mostly a success, however unpopular with middle-class parents who resent having to pay fees to avoid the bad old Inner London Education Authority comprehensives. Reorganisation has doubled the numbers getting an A-level pass, increased by six times those with good grades at O-level/GCSE and by seven times those staying on to further education.

There are bad secondary schools, but nothing like as bad as before 1965, or as bad as the "sinks" that would result from the present opt-out policy. Heaven knows how the British workforce would look had we stayed with 11-plus selection over the past 30 years, or if we were to go back to it now. This field is wide open to Labour. If Tony Blair cannot make hay in such political sunshine, how will he fare when winter comes?

The man versus the myth

Magnus Linklater gives Robert Burns the last word

Tomorrow is the 200th anniversary of the birthday of Robert Burns, the most idolised — and misunderstood — of poets. My local butcher has no fewer than five portraits of Robert Burns in his shop this week, to say nothing of a couple of busts and a model of the bard's cottage in a bottle. He expects to sell 1,000lb of haggis in the next few days and says he's never known a bigger turnover in such a short time. How many other poets shift merchandise as fast as that?

The Burns industry shows little sign of slowing down as Scotland celebrates its national poet. The only sadness is news of the death, yesterday, of Scotland's best-loved contemporary poet, Norman MacCaig. Burns is loved by biographers as well as butchers. More than 900 volumes have poured out since 1797, along with 2,000 editions of his poems and songs, and to judge by the acres of newspaper copy he has inspired this week, there is no end in sight. Whether in consequence we have any clearer perception of the man or his work is doubtful. Across the world tomorrow there will be thousands of Burns Night suppers with their whisky-drenched rituals and their toasts to an immortal memory that is impossibly blurred by myth.

"The mair they talk I'm kent the better," wrote Burns optimistically; the opposite is probably true. The man is now so smothered in his own mythology that it may be impossible to rescue him. Burns the ploughman-poet, Burns the lover, Burns the champion of women's rights, Burns the drinker, Burns the nationalist or Burns the Unionist have all been claimed by enthusiasts whose knowledge is mostly shrouded in a romantic mist. "He is a myth evolved by the popular imagination, a communal poetic creation, a protean figure," wrote the Orkney poet Edwin Muir. "We can all shape him to our likeness, for the myth is endlessly adaptable."

It is not that we know too little about Burns; it is that we know too much. Unlike Shakespeare, whose biographical details are sketchy at best, Burns's life is an open book. He wrote compulsively about himself, analysing his increasingly complicated affairs in hundreds of letters sent to his friends. In turn boasting, self-pitying, defiant, craven and delightfully witty, he comes across as a flawed but completely human being. Almost everyone he met tended to record what they thought. The Duchess of Gordon told Sir Walter Scott that she had never met a man "whose conversation so completely carried her off her feet".

Long before his death, the stories of his bastard children, his penury and his politics had become widespread and Burns himself was aware of the way that these were distorting his literary reputation: "My success has encouraged such a shoal of ill-spawned monsters to crawl into public notice under the title of Scots Poets, that the very term Scots Poetry borders on the burlesque," he wrote. His love songs were murdered on the music-hall stage, his politically charged poetry was seized on by adherents of every faction. By the 19th century, he was being claimed by Carlyle as an imperial hero and Robert Louis Stevenson as a model of the upwardly mobile working-class man.

Today he is hailed by Conservatives ("Be Britons still to Britons true, among ourselves united . . .") and by nationalists ("We're bought and sold for English gold/ Such a parcel of rogues in a nation"). As Charles Kennedy, MP, wrily pointed out this week: "He was obviously all things to all men, so he was clearly a Lib Dem."

The truth is that Burns was politically and morally a mass of inconsistency. He felt passionately about causes, but kept changing them. He supported the French Revolution to the extent of financing a consignment of cannon to the *sans-culottes*. But then he went off it. He was lyrical and stirring about Scotland, but had to temper his radicalism when he began to work for the Government as an exciseman. He was an early feminist, championing the rights of women, but treated them abominably, fathering nine illegitimate children and leaving some of them without support. He complained constantly about poverty but died reasonably well-off. He called himself a man of the people but was a highly placed Freemason, a member of the Royal Dumfries Volunteers and the Royal Company of Archers: two of his sons became colonels in the army of the East India Company and both retired to Cheltenham.

Perhaps, in the end, it is safest to fall back on the work and not the man. We should mark this 200th anniversary by celebrating the early poetry, which is the richest, the Merry Muses which are the bawdiest, the later songs which are the most lyrical, and the letters which are the most human part of him. We should forget that he has been taken prisoner and exploited by successive generations of propagandists and pundits and remember instead the enormous pleasure his verse has given to people who would never otherwise count themselves poetry-lovers. And we should leave him with the last, lyrical word, a stanza which Walter Scott thought contained "the essence of a thousand love-tales":

Had we never lov'd sae kindly,
Had we never lov'd sae blindly!
Never met — or never parted -
We had ne'er been broken-hearted.

A non-runner

GRANADA'S victory over Forte has brought on a bout of nerves in France. The country's leading racing event, the Prix de l' Arc de Triomphe, is at stake — Forte is its sponsor.

Yesterday the French Jockey Club said that it was concerned for the race's future. Gerry Robinson, the chief executive of Granada, has said that he does not intend to continue sponsoring the race.

"Clearly, Granada does not want to take over, and we will be in the market looking for a sponsor," said Louis Romanet, a director of the French Jockey Club. "It is a difficult economic situation to look for sponsors." The previous sponsor was the Aga Khan's Ciga hotel group which ran into financial difficulties.

Forte's sponsorship gave Sir Rocco the chance to throw one of the most lavish parties of the year at the Arc, which takes place at the beginning of October. Guests were flown in from all over the world. Regulars included Lord Lichfied, Lord Rothschild, the Duke of Marlborough and Pamela Harriman, and an interest in racing was not a prerequisite.

This year's race seems safe — Forte is contracted to sponsor the event and Granada has taken on that contract. The bookies are already working out the odds for the future.

Class apart

HARRIET HARMAN and her young son Joseph's schooling will soon be eclipsed by a new educational scandal. A faction of the National Union of Students has accused Jeremy Paxman of perpetuating the class divide.

The slur comes in a motion submitted by five colleges of further education for the NUS conference in March: "This conference believes the perpetuation of the class divide has been prolonged by the reintroduction of *University Challenge*." Further education colleges should be allowed on the show and Paxman should be replaced by the winsome presenter of *Pets Win Prizes*, Dale Winton.

Paxman sympathises but says there are already too many competitors. "I'm a great admirer of Dale Winton, though. Why stop there? Let's have Anthea Turner for *Mastermind*. Or Bernard Manning for *Brain of Britain*."

"Waiter, there's a P45 in my soup"

● *The BBC's gripping documentary,* The House, *about the carnage backstage at the Royal Opera House, is considered essential viewing. Rehearsals at the Welsh National Opera in Cardiff were cancelled so the cast could watch last night's episode.*

Armani weeds

ARMANI suits are flapping after the arrival by post at the London offices of the advertising agency Ogilvy & Mather of a large package. Addressed simply to the Information Technology Department, it was opened and found to contain six and a half kilos of cannabis with an estimated street value of close to £30,000. Police have been called.

A spokesman for the company refuses to comment on the investigation. But one employee tells me: "It's very weird. Some people here are suggesting it was sent to help the creative process. Now it just seems an awful waste."

● *John Major's statement yesterday in Prime Minister's Question Time, "Tough on hypocrisy, tough on the causes of hypocrisy," floored Tony Blair as he tried to steer debate away from Harriet Harman. Credit for the soundbite goes to Major's political secretary Howell James (a good friend of Labour spin-merchant Peter Mandelson), and his assistant George Bridges. "It was a collaborative effort — and they're pleased as punch," says a source.*

McNasty back

ILIE NASTASE, the Romanian tennis player whose outbursts on court were exceeded only by those of John McEnroe, is to swing into action again, in Scotland. At 49, he will play in a Legends event at the World Doubles Cup at Craiglockhart in May.

Although he has been elected a member of Romania's ruling Social Democrat party and last week announced plans to run for mayor of Bucharest, he hasn't lost a delight in gamesmanship that has seen complaints about him even on the over-35 tour. He plans to take to the court in a kilt.

Lord's forte

AMONG the supporters rallying behind the diminutive Lord Forte this week will have been the nuns at St Mary's School, Ascot. All five of Lord Forte's daughters were convent girls and he proved to be a generous benefactor in his own way — he funded a new refectory.

Giancarla, his second youngest daughter and a lively gel, did not last the course, however. She was expelled from the school after setting off the fire alarm at midnight and running off in her voluminous regulation nightdress. Then, as now with Granada's victory, the nuns turned to St Jude, the patron saint of lost causes.

Giancarla Forte: nun too happy

● *Royals will be gathering at All Saints Church at St Paul's Walden, Hertfordshire, on Saturday for the funeral of the Hon Lady Bowes Lyon, one of the Queen's only two remaining aunts, who died at the weekend, aged 89. She was the sister-in-law of the Queen Mother, who lived at St Paul's Walden Bury as a child and was convinced there were fairies at the bottom of the garden.*

P·H·S

[اهدا من الأهرام]

ARMS AND THE MEN

Mitchell alone may not be enough to secure talks

Since the guns first fell silent in Northern Ireland, peace has depended more on building confidence by patient diplomacy than on great leaps forward. It would be too much to expect that the Mitchell report on decommissioning, to be unveiled today, will dramatically *advance the peace process*. The issues may be clarified by international negotiators but the responsibility for moving matters on still rests with the politicians: in Belfast, Dublin, and, most crucially, Westminster. John Major, in particular, must now consider how to maintain momentum.

Senator Mitchell and his two colleagues were asked to square a circle. Unionists originally argued that they would not enter talks while Sinn Fein/IRA apparently reserved the right, and certainly the resources, to return to violence if they did not get their way. Conscious of these concerns, the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, outlined during a trip to America the key concession required of the paramilitaries before he was confident that all-party talks could begin. Washington Three, as it *became known, stipulated* at least a token surrender of weapons.

Sinn Fein/IRA regard Washington Three as a delaying tactic. They insist that their numbers give them the mandate to enter negotiations immediately. From Haifa to Harare, they argue, terrorists have kept their weapons until negotiations ended and 17 months of ceasefire should be seen as commitment enough to peace.

The Mitchell solution seems to be an attempt to get the British Government off the hook of Washington Three by substituting a new test for Sinn Fein/IRA's good faith. Sinn Fein is apparently to be asked to endorse the concept of "consent".

British ministers may be only too happy to find a more flexible route for Sinn Fein to approach the negotiating table but much will depend on how consent is defined. Any declaration from Sinn Fein would do nothing to assuage Unionist fears unless it recognised that the majority of Northern Ireland's voters must agree to any change. Sinn Fein cannot give such a guarantee without accepting the legitimacy of a Province it exists to oppose. So far it has sought refuge in ambiguity. It is unlikely to change now.

Given the elusiveness of agreement on what constitutes consent, other methods of *inching towards inclusive talks may* have to be explored. David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, has argued for the establishment of a body elected by the people of Northern Ireland in which all the parties could explore positions and build trust.

Significantly, he has already conceded that the IRA need not surrender any arms before Sinn Fein could sit in such a body. Moreover, it would not have to commit itself to a notion of consent at odds with its ideology.

Irish nationalists, from Fianna Fail to the *SDLP and Sinn Fein, still see the convention* as Mr Trimble's Trojan Horse. They suspect that any elected body would be used by the Unionists to reassert majority rule in Ulster. They should think again. The Unionists have accepted that any such body should have a short shelf-life, specifically to prevent it becoming another Stormont. To his credit the Taioseach, John Bruton, is believed to feel that such a body could have a role, if it operated alongside the two Governments and sought to build links across the border.

Establishing a constitutional convention would require risk-taking on Mr Major's part, but failing to see if such an initiative would work might pose graver risks. An elected body could concentrate minds and consolidate fragile trust. It does not deserve to be sidelined in the search for peace.

THE PLOT UNRAVELS

Events are scuppering Franco-German plans for Europe

The Maastricht strategy for European integration is "an historic stupidity". The treaty is "obsolete . . . dead", and the blueprint for Europe it represents is "an explosive mixture of naive ultraliberalism and restrictive regulation" that "will end in disaster". Maastricht "should be renegotiated". Neither France nor Germany can possibly meet the criteria for European monetary union. It would be "no drama" if the timetable were pushed back.

These rebellious utterances come not from one of John Major's "bastards". They come from the heart of the French Establishment, from Peugeot to the Société Générale and the employers' federation and from some of the country's most prominent politicians. After *more than three years of post-referendum silence* on the subject of "European construction", unemployment, a stubbornly flat economy and social unrest have combined to break open floodgates of hitherto suppressed doubt about France's officially irrevocable commitment to the 1999 target for EMU.

Because the spending cuts he is seeking to impose are now indelibly associated in the public mind with Maastricht, the debate has become bound up with Alain Juppé's masterplan to overhaul France's welfare budget — and with his future as Prime Minister. The Juppé plan, already shredded by successive concessions to strikers and demonstrators, faces further constitutional challenges in the National Assembly this week. The EMU-sceptics range across the political spectrum, from Philippe Séguin, the Gaullist Speaker of the Assembly who is an old and close friend of President Chirac and a potential successor to M Juppé, all the way to Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the veteran Socialist who is this week demanding a constitutional amendment confirming the franc as the currency of the French Republic.

Even Jacques Delors, keen as he was to blow the Euro trumpet at yesterday's launch of the publicity campaign for the new currency in Brussels, has begun to voice guarded doubts. The former President of the Commission has lost none of his passion for European integration. But as an economist, even he can see the risk that prolonged recession in France and Germany will wreck his grand project. He has begun to hint that if the EMU timetable slips, it will be no tragedy and that a single currency should be *seen not as an end in itself*, only "a means to an end". This message is as relevant to *Helmut Kohl, whose support for* EMU is based on his dream of a federal Europe, as it is to France. M Chirac needs a German ladder down which to climb. Herr Kohl's interests lie in offering him one.

The French President's vague promise last weekend of a Franco-German drive to boost consumer spending, yet to be confirmed in Bonn, is pitifully irrelevant. It skirts the truth, which is that both Governments are floundering in their efforts to kickstart growth — and that both will continue to flounder so long as policy is driven by Maastricht's arbitrary targets. Both countries are shedding jobs by the hundreds of thousands; both Governments have politically difficult reforms to sell to their electorates. Neither has voters ready to die for Maastricht — let alone the euro. If Herr Kohl would only accept that the righting of Germany's domestic troubles takes priority over the EMU timetable, M Chirac would feel free to turn, with heartfelt relief, to those of France.

THE FAMOUS FIVE PICK A DILLY

Never mind the quality of Enid Blyton, count the royalties

The Famous Five are Julian, Dick, George, Anne and, of course, Timmy the Dog. They find adventure and excitement wherever they go! How will they solve this latest mystery — the mystery of Trocadero plc?

"I'm scared," whimpered Anne. "This tunnel is so dirty, and rude grown-ups keep pushing." "Buck up, old girl," panted Julian, "Nearly there!" He was panting because a notice said he had to carry Timmy on the escalator. And Timmy was a large dog whose tail kept on annoying passengers who were hurrying impatiently past on *the left*.

At the top the children felt lost in the crowds. Until now their adventures had been in open-air settings such as mystery moors. And here they were at the heart of the bad city. They were better at camp-fires than at getting *through the automatic* ticket-gates. And as soon as tomboy George had seen how they worked, Timmy disgraced himself. A stern policeman fined Julian on the spot of all their pocket-money.

"I *hate* this place," sniffled Anne, "Why do we have *to come here? And* who is Trocadero? He sounds like a smuggler." "This is Piccadilly," explained Julian. "Uncle Quentin calls it the Heart of the Empire. I suppose those rough men in sleeping bags have come from its toerags. When Uncle Quentin was a *young man, on Boat Race night he put a policeman's* helmet on the head of that statue of the rude boy shooting an arrow. I have heard him tell the story when he was jolly after dinner. Trocadero is a famous company from Piccadilly. And it has bought our copyright. So we have to get across the traffic somehow to book in with the directors."

"Do you mean that we no longer belong to Aunty Enid?" sobbed Anne. "We have been with her since 1942, and I don't feel a day older." "There, there, pretty little Anne," said Julian putting his arm round her. "It's not so bad. Aunt Enid's daughter is going to keep an eye on us. They say they are going to maximise our profitability and preserve the integrity of Aunt Enid's work and reputation."

"But does that mean that we are going to *have to change our adventures*, like our chum, silly little Noddy, who has lost his friend Dr Golly?" cried Dick. "I hear that Big Ears is having cosmetic surgery because he upsets the aurally challenged."

"No," said Julian, cheerfully. "We can carry on having a wonderful time and falling into adventure just as before. Clever-clogs sneer at us for being racist, sexist, mindless and determinedly middle-class. Other highbrows say our plots are fundamentally stunted and our characters never change. But they cannot argue with eight million Enid Blyton books still being sold every year, 27 years after Aunty went to the big Kirrin Island in the sky. We must be getting something right if so many children still love us. And now we have to solve our biggest *mystery ever*. How to cross Piccadilly Circus. If we can crack this adventure, Trocadero has a welcome-on-board beano for us with lashings of ginger pop and cake. Except that in its boardroom they serve a wizard new local lemonade called Hooch."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN **Telephone 0171-782 5000**

Harriet Harman's selection of St Olave's for her son

From Mr John Adebiyi

Sir, The important issue in the debate on Harriet Harman's decision to send her son to a grammar school (reports and leading articles, January 22, 23) is that she is a senior member of a political party committed to the abolition of selection for schools on the basis of ability.

As a member of a future Labour government, Ms Harman will thus seek to deprive my children of the opportunities of which she so readily avails herself for her own.

One of the principal reasons that St Olave's School in Orpington is capable of providing such a good education for its pupils is that it has been able to select the most able and motivated candidates.

In its ideologically motivated pursuit of equality at all costs, the Labour Party threatens the disappearance of such centres of excellence, leaving children from all backgrounds with few alternatives to the mediocrity and under-achievement which seem prevalent in so many of our schools.

If selection produces schools with standards high enough for the children of Labour politicians, then it is Labour education policy rather than selective schools which must change.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ADEBIYI,
30 Cranbrook Road,
Chiswick, W4.
January 23.

From Dr Richard Turner

Sir, It would be quite wrong for Harriet Harman to prejudice the education of her child now just because she hopes to establish a better education system based on a different principle at some time in the future.

I have worked all my life to improve *the National Health Service*: but similarly, if the NHS could not provide me with the treatment I needed when I needed it, I would have no hesitation in looking to the private sector.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD TURNER,
68 Duchy Road,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire.
January 22.

From Mr George Walden, MP for Buckingham (Conservative)

Sir, The explanation of Ms Harman's decision is simple: the country is living an educational lie. Like her, the Government is obliged to pretend that comprehensives are doing a marvellous job — though not quite marvellous enough to send its own children there.

A similar hypocrisy characterises many a dinner-party conversation on education.

So long as politicians conspire to evade the truth, our Two-Nation educational culture will continue. Meanwhile, Ms Harman is merely obeying the golden rule in British education: *sauve qui peut*. Like all Tartufferie, her flounderings have their comic side.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE WALDEN,
House of Commons.
January 22.

From Mr Jacques A. Arnold, MP for Gravesham (Conservative)

Sir, The contradictions of Labour's education policy have been highlighted by the recent activities of Harriet Harman.

Her choice to put forward her son *for selection by a grant-maintained* grammar school in a Conservative borough would not be available under the Labour policy which she has yet again supported.

Under that policy, she would effectively be restricted to the choice she *has already rejected for herself: that* between schools in her local Labour borough.

Last night the House of Commons voted for a Conservative policy which provides new opportunities for grant-maintained schools to finance their capital programmes.

Ms Harman voted with Labour to deny schools like St Olave's those opportunities. Having accepted a place in the school one week, she opposes its ability to finance its development the next.

Yours faithfully,
JACQUES ARNOLD,
House of Commons.
January 23.

From Mr James McFarlane

Sir, Managers are always selective in choosing players for a football team, an orchestra or a play. Nobody would think there was any sense in fielding mixed-ability teams. Children with athletic, musical and artistic talents are recognised, trained and encouraged, amongst those of similar abilities. Nobody seeks deliberately to submerge them in the average.

So if this selection is all right, I wonder why the Labour Party thinks it is all wrong to do the same for children with mental talents. Why are they to be suppressed and denied the chance to develop amongst those of similar interests and aptitude? I wish Mr Blair would explain.

Yours very truly,
JAMES McFARLANE,
24 Broad Street,
Ludlow, Shropshire.

From Mr Aaron Bell

Sir, As a sixth-form student at St Olave's I commend Ms Harman's decision in choosing this school for her son. I am sure that he will benefit, as I have, from the excellent range of opportunities here.

I think that the Labour Party should follow Ms Harman's lead. Grammar *schools admirably serve the needs of* able children from all backgrounds. Were St Olave's to be forced to change from its current voluntary-aided status to become a fee-paying independent school, this would debar many boys with great academic potential *from attending. This potential* problem under a Labour government would be exacerbated if the assisted places scheme were terminated.

Yours faithfully,
AARON BELL,
19 Hayne Road, Beckenham, Kent.

From Mr S. C. Pryor

Sir, Of course Mrs Dromey and her husband are entitled to send young Dromey to the school of their choice — I hope they are grateful to the Government for enabling them to do so.

Yours etc.
S. C. PRYOR,
Little Mill Cottage, Bures, Suffolk.

Maxwell and Labour

From Mr David Winnick, MP for Walsall North (Labour)

Sir, Much is being written again about the character and behaviour of the late Robert Maxwell in the light of the court case acquitting his two sons.

Isn't it of some interest that the two things Maxwell certainly didn't succeed in bullying and intimidating were the Labour Party and the House of Commons? While, alas, Maxwell was briefly a Labour MP he never managed, despite many efforts, to get elected to the national executive, and certainly failed in his attempts to get another and winnable seat.

As for the Commons, no commentators have ever suggested that Maxwell's characteristic contemptuous manner towards others ever made much of an impact in the House, or was ever likely to do so.

But then, of course, he didn't *own* either.

Yours etc,
DAVID WINNICK,
House of Commons.
January 22.

African jaunt

From Mr Robert Boyd

Sir, I was delighted to read (report, January 19) that two pilots have set off in a 60-year-old Tiger Moth on a repeat of Alan Cobham's pioneering flight to Cape Town in 1926.

I remember standing, as a small boy, alongside a cleared strip in the bush close to Livingstone, to watch Cobham land. He did not, as your map might indicate, land at Victoria Falls; instead, he overflew the falls, and in so doing got water from the *continual spray into his fuel. This* caused his engine to misfire and much concern amongst those awaiting his landing.

Yours etc,
ROBERT BOYD,
7 Acorn Drive,
Wokingham, Berkshire.
January 19.

Interest rate cuts

From Mr Carl M. Chambers

Sir, We may have been surprised by the timing of the interest rate cut (reports, January 19), but surely no one can be surprised by the extent. There is tremendous political advantage in cutting rates by one quarter of *a per cent at a time rather than half a* per cent or more, ie, the Chancellor gets at least twice as many chances to appear on TV and the radio proclaiming lower interest rates.

Whether that is what the long-term economy needs is a different matter — but what's long term in an election year?

Sincerely,
CARL M. CHAMBERS,
Flat 4, 1d Vermont Street, Hull.

Business letters, page 29

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Bespectacled drivers' jobs at risk

From Lieutenant Colonel A. G. G. Miller (retd)

Sir, You report (January 19) that thousands of lorry and bus drivers who wear spectacles or contact lenses face losing their jobs because of a new European directive that will force them to take eye tests using their uncorrected vision. The ruling has been justified on the ground that they might have an accident and kill someone if their glasses fell off or lenses fell out while driving.

About 3,500 lives are lost each year on the roads in the UK — fewer proportionately than in most other advanced nations in the world. How *many of these deaths were caused by* lorries or buses, driven by short-sighted drivers, whose glasses fell off and who then could see so little that they killed someone?

If we assume the probabilities in each instance to be one in ten then this *EC intervention may save about one* life every three years. However, I suspect that the actual probabilities are lower by orders of magnitude and that the chances of this legislation saving a life are negligible.

The endorsement of the legislation by the Department of Transport is both ignorant and craven. Has Mr Norris, the Transport Minister, no conception of probability? Idiotic legislation such as this must be stopped. Has he not given a thought to the *countless safe and blameless drivers* who may now lose their jobs? What of their lives and self-respect and the effect, on their families, of this legislation?

Where will this sort of thinking end? Train and taxi drivers must surely be next, and then what is to stop Mr Norris from imposing similar rules on private car drivers as well? Has Mr Norris any idea of how many short-sighted drivers there are who wear glasses?

Yours faithfully,
ALISTAIR MILLER,
Cromwell House,
Lulworth Cove, Dorset.
January 21.

From Lord Campbell of Croy

Sir, With acknowledgement to the late Dorothy Parker,

Men won't get passes
in tests, wearing glasses.

Yours faithfully,
CAMPBELL of CROY,
House of Lords.
January 19.

Kidney patients' plight

From the Co-Chairmen of the National Kidney Federation

Sir, It was reassuring to read (report, later editions, January 9) that the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, recognised the unacceptable regional variations in health care provision. *The need for urgent action is emphasised* by your report, "Dialysis shortfall kills hundreds" (January 22), in which Professor Stewart Cameron calls for an end to the tragic situation where 1,000 people die each year. There is indeed a need to improve *renal services; surely this latest information* will prompt the minister to act swiftly.

It is to be hoped that the inequitable situation where the uptake of new end-state renal patients of 39.6 per million population in Merseyside, *44.3 pmp* in the Oxford region and well below the minimum uptake recommended by the Renal Association in many other areas (compared with 108.6 pmp in Wales) will be promptly addressed by better planning and funding.

As today's report points out, we are still awaiting publication of the Renal Service Review, completed in September 1994 and held back by the Department of Health after a lengthy sojourn in the Treasury.

It is believed the review will be the first all-embracing study of renal disease in this country, which is currently 21st in the European league table for providing quantity of care.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID POULTER,
F. HOWARTH,
Co-Chairmen,
National Kidney Federation,
6 Stanley Street,
Worksop, Nottinghamshire.
January 22.

Speaking for London

From Sir Alan Greengross

Sir, A first leader in *The Times* (January 27) is a powerful weapon, but how sad that, when the site for the Millennium Exhibition is at stake, there is no body that speaks for London, nor strategic powerhouse to *make its case*.

For how much longer must London, which you rightly call "the finest capital in Europe", also be the only one that is denied its own democratically elected heart and voice?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN GREENGROSS
(Chairman),
The Institute for
Metropolitan Studies,
University College London,
26-29 St Cross Street, EC1.
January 17.

Disk trouble

From Mr Simon Dobbs

Sir, Dr Landes (letter, January 17) adopts a rather holier than thou attitude to the backing up (copying in preparation for inevitable data loss) of computer hard disks. This is all well and good, but I am afraid that the main reason most users do not back up their disks is neither laziness nor *ignorance, but economics*.

If I backed up everything on my modest 500-megabyte disk it would cost about £300 whatever method I used, which to my mind is a significant sum. So I run the gauntlet of mains spikes, thunder and lightning, and fate.

Yours,
S. T. DOBBS,
3 Warwick Close,
Market Harborough, Leicestershire.

Shortage of beds for acutely ill

From Professor John A. Dormandy and others

Sir, Potential patients should be aware of the crisis in the level of medical care available in southwest London, a crisis attested to by the vast majority of our consultant colleagues (report and leading article, January 12). This is principally due to the reduction in numbers of hospital beds as NHS funding has been diverted to community care, alongside an increase in the demand for hospitalisation.

The number of patients requiring emergency or urgent hospital admission has increased year round. There has been no reduction in the number of patients needing admission for elective surgery despite a greater use of day surgery.

We now have an average bed occupancy of 95 per cent. This is incompatible with safe medical practice because we cannot accommodate the inevitable fluctuations in emergency and urgent cases. Some patients have to be discharged early and some have to wait on trolleys in the accident and emergency department for beds, even overnight. Patients are cancelled without notice on the morning of "planned" admissions for which both they *and their families have prepared*. Many patients with urgent but non-emergency conditions cannot be admitted.

Central directives about Patient's Charter standards tell us to admit patients, even with relatively minor *conditions, if they have waited 12* months or if they have had two previous admissions cancelled. These admirable ideals should surely not take priority over emergencies or serious conditions needing urgent treatment.

Our hospital managers and the local health purchasers are doing their best to solve these problems, but to no avail. Their extent and chronic nature must be understood at the highest levels within the NHS. The simple truth is that insufficient resources are allocated for the care of patients with acute conditions requiring urgent admission to hospital. There must be reinvestment to ensure that the Patient's Charter standard is consistent with our ability to maintain a comprehensive 24-hour emergency service and a high standard of in-patient care.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. DORMANDY
(Chairman of Surgical Service Centre,
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust),
MARK WANSBROUGH-JONES
(Chairman of Medical Service Centre,
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust),
M. SEMPLE
(Medical Director, Epsom Health Care
NHS Trust),
R. COURTNEY-EVANS
(Medical Director, Mayday Healthcare
NHS Trust),
St George's Hospital,
Blackshaw Road, SW17.
January 17.

From the Chief Executive of Manchester Health Commission

Sir, Faced with the short-term imperative to ensure sufficient hospital beds are available for patients requiring emergency admission, NHS managers should not forget the increasing number of hospitals, particularly those in cities, which report a significant proportion of their beds being occupied by people no longer requiring medical or nursing care.

These patients have been clinically discharged and are waiting for other agencies, primarily social services, to *organise facilities or services to be* provided at home before they can leave hospital. In Manchester up to 10 per cent of the city's acute hospital beds are occupied by such people.

This problem will increase in magnitude and raises questions about the *future organisation* and working together of health and social services at national and local levels.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL GOODWIN,
Chief Executive,
Manchester Health Commission,
Gateway House,
Piccadilly South, Manchester.
January 16.

Present helpers

From Mr Richard J. Butler

Sir, If thanks can be given to God for the mixed blessings of the motor car [reports, January 18; letters, January 22] should we perhaps reflect on other suitable machines for such praise? I would *suggest the domestic washing* machine, which saves much drudgery without the associated killing and maiming.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD J. BUTLER,
Hyndburn, 29 Villa Road,
Bingley, West Yorkshire.
January 19.

Standing for gallantry

From Mr Anthony Gore

Sir, Had Giles Coren been faced by two women on the Tube (letters, January 20) he could have solved his problem in the manner of the old gentleman in the (Edwardian) *Punch* cartoon: "May I offer the elder of you two ladies my seat?"

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY GORE,
11 Oaklea, Honiton, Devon.
January 21.

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COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
January 23: Mrs Robert de Pass has succeeded the Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 23: The Princess Royal was represented by Mr Brian Peppiatt at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Air Marshal Sir John Lapsley which was held in St Clement Danes Church, London WC2, today.

CLARENCE HOUSE
January 23: Dame Frances Campbell-Preston has succeeded the Lady Angela Oswald as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
RICHMOND PARK
January 23: Princess Alexandra this afternoon opened the Culpeper Shop at 48 High Street, Windsor, and was received by Mr David Simonds (Deputy Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire).

Her Royal Highness, Patron of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, subsequently met Forte Heritage fundraisers at the Castle Hotel, High Street, Windsor.

The Queen has been graciously pleased, on the retirement of Sir Kenneth Scott, to appoint Mr Robin Janvrin Deputy Private Secretary and Mrs Mary Francis Assistant Private Secretary to Her Majesty.

The Queen has been graciously pleased, on the resignation of Mr Maurice Dalton, to appoint Mrs Lesley Dean Assistant Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps.

Birthdays today

Mr Eric Ashton, rugby league coach, 61; Miss Nora Beloff, author, 77; Mr Harry Brett, former general secretary, Prison Governors Association, 49; Lieutenant-General Sir Anthony Denison-Smith, 54; Mr Neil Diamond, singer and actor, 51; Mr Bamber Gascoigne, author and broadcaster, 61; Mr Peter Laister, company director, 67; Mr M.J. Le May, banker, 38; Dr Desmond Morris, zoologist, writer and broadcaster, 68; Sir Donald Murray, former Lord Justice of Appeal, Northern Ireland, 73; Dr Ian Oliver, Chief Constable, Grampian, 56; Lord Savile, 77; Dr Jane Somerville, cardiologist, 63; the Most Rev J.A. Ward, Archbishop of Cardiff, 67; Air Commodore Sir Archie Winskill, former Captain of The Queen's Flight, 79.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Hadrian, Roman Emperor 117-138, Italica, Spain, AD76; William Congreve, dramatist, Bardsey, Yorkshire, 1670; Frederick II the Great, King of Prussia 1740-86, Berlin, 1712; Charles James Fox, statesman, London, 1749; Sir Edwin Chadwick, physician and social reformer, Longsight, Lancashire, 1800.

DEATHS: Lord Randolph Churchill, statesman, London, 1895; Amadeo Modigliani, painter and sculptor, Paris, 1920; Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister 1940-45 and 1951-55, London, 1965.
Conscription was introduced in Britain, 1916.

Dinners

Foundation for Science and Technology
Mr Ian Taylor, Minister for Science and Technology, was present at a lecture and dinner discussion of the Foundation for Science and Technology held last night at the Royal Society. Lord Butterworth, chairman of the foundation council, was in the chair. Sir Giles Shaw, MP, Professor Peter S. Harper and Dr Helen Watt were the speakers.

The Emmanuel Society
A dinner for past and present lawyers of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, was held at the Reform Club on Tuesday, January 23, 1996, by permission of Mr Nat Solomon. The Right Hon Lord Parkinson, Mr Derek Finlay, Sir David Williams, QC, and the Master of the College, the Right Hon Lord St John of Fawsley, spoke. Among those present were:

The President of the Emmanuel Society, Professor Derek Brewer, Officers of the Society, and some one hundred members of the college including past and present Fellows in Law.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, as Honorary Air Commodore, will visit RAF *Marham at 11.30.*

The Princess Royal, as Colonel-in-Chief of The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, will visit the 1st Battalion at Lucknow Barracks, Tidworth, at 11.00 prior to deployment to Bosnia.

Princess Margaret, as patron, will visit London Lighthouse, Lancaster Road, W11, at noon for the inauguration of its tenth anniversary year.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00. The Queen's Guard mounts at Buckingham Palace at 11.30.

Luncheons

Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce
Mr Roy MacLaren, Canadian Minister of International Trade, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Canada-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce held yesterday at Ironmongers' Hall. Mr Timothy Battle, president, was in the chair. The Canadian High Commissioner, the Agents General for British Columbia and Quebec and Lord Shaughnessy were among the guests.

Mid-Atlantic Club/ESU
Lord Ezra presided at a luncheon of the Mid-Atlantic Club/English-Speaking Union held yesterday at Dartmouth House. Mr Helmut Sonnenfeldt was the guest of honour and speaker.

Newspaper Society
The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster was the guest of honour at a luncheon of the Newspaper Society held yesterday at Bloomsbury House, Great Russell Street. Mr Geoffrey Copeman, president of the society and vice-chairman of the Eastern Counties Newspapers Group, was the host. Among those present were:

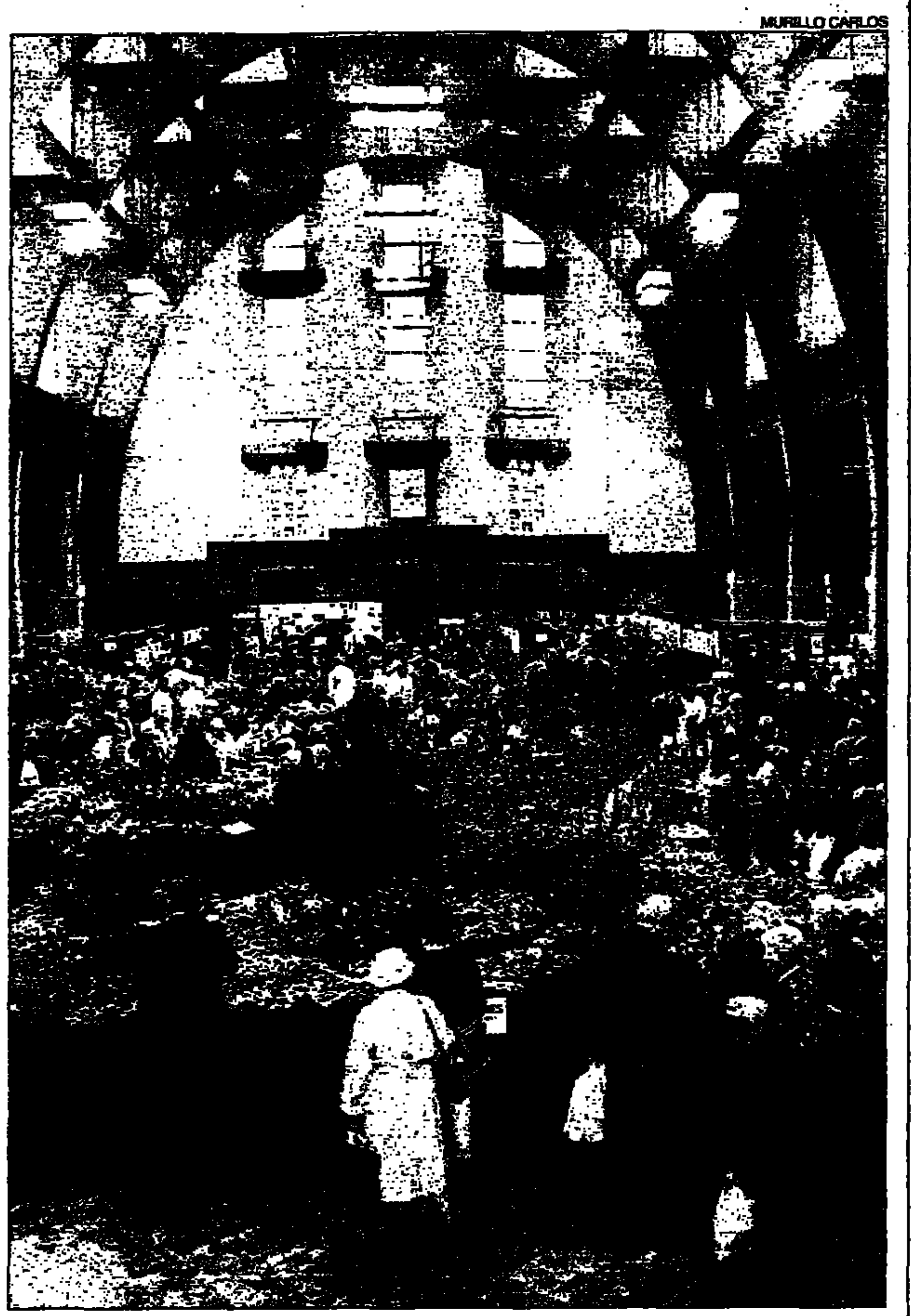
The Managing Director of Lancashire Publications, the Managing Director of the CN Group, Cumbria, the Chairman of Southnews, the Managing Director of Home Counties Newspaper Holdings, the Group director of the Midland News Association, the London Editor of the *Wolverhampton Express and Star*, the director, the deputy director and head of government and legal affairs, and the head of employment affairs, Newspaper Society, the Editor of the *Cambridge Evening News*, the Chairman of Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers, the Director of Information, Duchy of Lancaster, the Deputy Chairman of Emap and a director of Thomson Regional Newspapers.

Yellow and purple hellebores win RHS gold medal

Colours of winter draw the crowds

By Alan Toogood
Horticulture Correspondent

MURILLO CARLOS



Visitors inspecting a vibrant display at the New Horticultural Hall yesterday

THE plants that seem to be attracting the crowds at the Royal Horticultural Society's flower show are hellebores — the increasingly fashionable evergreen winter-flowering perennials that include Lenten and Christmas roses.

Many exhibitors have included them among other winter-flowering plants and bulbs, but Ashwood Nurseries, of Kingswinford, West Midlands, has taken hellebores to heart and produced its own strain called "Ashwood Garden Hybrids". The Ashwood stand, with its hellebore hybrids featuring prominently and arranged among bold drifts of *Cyclamen coum* in the nursery's own selection of pink, magenta and white shades, has been awarded a gold medal.

The Ashwood hellebores boast new colours such as yellow and some really dark purple shades, and larger flowers. Some have outward-facing instead of downward-facing flowers and others are heavily spotted with contrasting colours.

Other exhibits at this show, which opened yesterday in Westminster, embrace the wide range of flowers, foliage and bark that can provide winter colour in gardens. Lincluden Nursery, of Bisley Green, Surrey, has dispelled the myth that conifers are sombre by staging a very colourful display, for which it has been awarded a gold medal. The varieties range from bronze cryptomerias, through gold thujas to bright yellow conifers such as *Abies nordmanniana* "Golden Spreader".

The exhibit of dwarf bulbs from Broadleigh Gardens, of Bishop's Hull, Somerset, includes a collection of *Narcissus bulbocodium* and its varieties, the hoop petticoat daffodil with shallow bell-shaped flowers. The variety *mesatlanticus* is outstanding with its butter yellow flowers that smell strongly of apricots. Glebe Cottage Plants, of Warkleigh, Devon, is showing a winter-flowering periwinkle, *Vinca difformis*, with the palest blue starry flowers, an ideal plant for a container as it has both erect and trailing stems.

Several exhibitors are showing trees and shrubs for winter colour and interest, including Bluebell Nursery, of Blackfordby, Leicestershire, which is featuring a new holly, *Ilex aquifolium* "Calypso". It was discovered as a variegated shoot on an ordinary holly in a local hedgerow and the nursery propagated and named it. The cultivar is distinctive, as its foliage is boldly splashed with gold, contrasting well with the dark stems.

Burncoose Nurseries, of Redruth, Cornwall, is showing many other variegated foliage shrubs in its gold medal display. *Pittosporums* mingle with camellias that include its own *Camellia* x *williamsii* "Burncoose", a compact, floriferous cultivar with single pink flowers.

Mrs M. Best, of Brookmans Park, Hertfordshire, a prizewinner in the Royal Horticultural Society's ornamental plant competition, won a special distinction.

Among her exhibits is a very pale yellow form of *Chimonanthus praecox* (winter sweet). So impressed were the judges with this rarely seen form that it was given an award of merit by the RHS Floral B Committee subject to submission of a clonal name.

There is also a display by botanical artists. A gold medal has been awarded to Jenny Jowett, of Silchester, Berkshire, for watercolour paintings of *Galanthus* and new species of *Epimedium*.

The show, in the New Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, Westminster, is open today from 10am to 5pm.

Reception

Nahat
Mr Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, was the guest of honour at the annual reception of Nahat (National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts) held last night at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre.

Professor Michael Schofield, chairman, welcomed the guests.

Fredrick Lord Leighton

The centenary of the burial of Fredrick Lord Leighton will be commemorated at Evening Prayer at 5.00pm on Saturday, February 3, in St Paul's Cathedral.

Memorial services

Air Marshal Sir John Lapsley
The Princess Royal was represented by Mr Brian Peppiatt at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Air Marshal Sir John Lapsley held yesterday at St Clement Danes, Strand. The Rev P. Bishop officiated. Mr John Fairrie, son-in-law, and Mr Peter Lapsley, son, read the lessons. Air Commodore P.M. Stean and Captain P.M.C. Vincent, half-brother, paid tribute. The Right Rev Frank Cocks pronounced the blessing. Among those present were:

Lady Lapsley (widow), Mrs John Fairrie (daughter), Mrs Peter Lapsley (daughter-in-law), Mr S Sly (brother-in-law), Mrs P M C Vincent (half sister-in-law), Clare and Douglas Lapsley and Michael and Fenella Fairrie (grandchildren), Mr James Lapsley, Mr John Lapsley, Mr and Mrs S Stapely, Mr and Mrs G Smith, Marshal of the RAF Sir John Grandy, Marshal of the RAF Sir Denis Spotswood, Admiral Sir William O'Brien, Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon (Chief of the Air Staff), Air Chief Marshal Sir Christopher Foxley-Norris (chairman, Battle of Britain Fighter Association), Air Chief Marshal Sir Roger Palin (RAF Benevolent Fund), Air Chief Marshal Sir Lewis Hodges (RAF Escaping Society), Air Chief Marshal Sir John Aiken (RAFA), Air Chief Marshal Sir Nigel Maynard, Air Chief Marshal Sir Neil and Lady Wheeler.

Air Marshal Sir Harold Maguire, Air Marshal Sir Charles and Lady Soutar, Air Marshal Sir Edward and Lady Gordon Jones, Air Marshal Sir Timothy Garden, Sir Rex Hunt, Lady Wykeham, Air Vice-Marshal P T Squire, Air Vice-Marshal A J C Bagnall (Air Officer Commanding 11 Group), Air Vice-Marshal A L Roberts (chairman, RAF Coastal Command Association), Air Vice-Marshal B Robinson and Wing Commander D C Roome (74 Squadron Association) with Mrs Robinson.

Air Commodore M J Evans (RAF Halton Apprentices Association) and Mr Evans, Group Captain W Metcalfe (representing the Air Officer Commanding 18 Group), Mrs F Andrews, Mrs J Cook, Mr W P P Wykeham, Mr and Mrs J Marshall, Ms P Marshall, Mr and Mrs J Rees.

Representatives of 74 Squadron, Suffolk Coastal District Council, the Save the Children Fund, Wolverhampton Grammar School, the Falkland Islands Association and many other friends and colleagues.

Mr Ivor Turnbull
A memorial service for Mr Ivor Sinclair Turnbull, Founder, Publisher and Editor of *Antiques Trade Gazette*, was held yesterday at St Bride's, Fleet Street. Canon John Oates officiated. Mr Mark Bridge, Editor of *Antiques Trade Gazette* read the lesson and Mr Huon Mallalieu read from the works of T.S. Eliot. Mr Brand Inglis gave an address.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.A. Asquith
and Miss A.C.M. Neal
The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of the late Hon Paul Asquith and of the Hon Mrs Asquith, of Fulham, London, and Alexandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs Morton Neal, of Sarratt, Hertfordshire.

M B. Bombarde
and Miss C. Gough
The engagement is announced between Bruno, eldest son of M and Mme A. Bombarde, of St Die, France, and Caroline, only daughter of the late Dick Gough and of Mrs Mary Gough, MBE, of Hartest, Suffolk.

Mr A.T. Brown
and Miss J.M.L. Brown
The engagement is announced between Alec, son of Mr and Mrs C.C. Brown, of Bedford, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs A.C.L. Brown, of Wimbledon, London.

The Hon W.E. Buckley
and Miss E.L. Clementson
The engagement is announced between William, only son of Lord and Lady Wrenbury, of Dallington, East Sussex, and Emma, only daughter of Mr Peter Clementson, of West Wittering, West Sussex, and of Mrs Anthony Robinson, of South Clifton, Nottinghamshire.

Mr L. Denys
and Miss F. Wingate
The engagement is announced between Liston, fifth son of Mr and Mrs André Denys, of Beckton, East London, and Frances, daughter of Mr Nigel Wingate and Mrs Kathleen Priestley, both of Hampshire.

Mr J.C.H. Frost
and Miss H.S. Mitchell
The engagement is announced between Julian, elder son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Frost, of Sible Hedingham, Essex, and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Mitchell, of Felpham, West Sussex.

Mr C.J. Collington
and Miss C.M. Bickersteth
The engagement is announced between Cameron, elder son of the Reverend and Mrs Ted Collington, of Strathkinness, Fife, and Caroline, only daughter of the late Reverend John Bickersteth and of Mrs John Bickersteth, of Ashburnham, East Sussex.

Mr T.J. Hampden
and Miss K. Hudson-Jones
The forthcoming marriage is announced between Tim, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Hampden, of Wellington, Somerset, and Kathy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Eamonn Jones, of Sandhurst, Berkshire.

Mr S. Oldfield
and Miss D. Maidment
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Rev and Mrs Oldfield, of Bolton, and Deborah, daughter of Captain and Mrs Maidment, of Stourbridge.

Mr S.L. Sheridan
and Miss C.L. Musolf
The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Squadron Leader Peter Sheridan, RAF retd, and Mrs Sheridan, of Whitchurch Hill, Oxfordshire, and Cheryl, daughter of Mr and Mrs Lewis Musolf, of Vienna, Virginia.

Mr H. Vint
and Miss G.F. Dibben
The engagement is announced between Hugo, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Vint, of Crickhowell, Powys, and Georgia Frances, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Dibben, of Malmesbury, Wiltshire.

Inner Temple

Mr Justice Langley, Judge Pitchers, Nigel Pascoe, QC, Oliver Sells, QC, Joanna Korner, QC, Kenneth Aylett, and Andrew Tidbury have been elected Masters of the Bench of the Inner Temple.

Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk, LG

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk, LG, will be held in the Cathedral of Our Lady and St Philip Howard, Arundel at 2.30pm on Friday, March 1, 1996. Admission is by ticket only. Please apply to The Dover House, Poling, Arundel, West Sussex, BN18 9PX, by February 12, 1996.

Professor Donald Coleman

A *Memorial Event* for Professor Donald Coleman, Litt D, FBA, formerly Fellow of Pembroke College and Professor of Economic History in the University of Cambridge, will be held in the Old Library, Pembroke College, at 2.30pm *on Saturday, February 3,* 1996. Tea will be served in College afterwards. All those wishing to attend are invited to inform The Tutor, Pembroke College, Cambridge, CB2 1RF (Telephone 01223-338124: Fax 01223-338163) by January 29, 1996.

Frank Cvitanovich

A celebration of the life and career of Frank Cvitanovich, the TV and film director, will be held at St James, Piccadilly, at 11am on Tuesday, February 20, 1996.

Evening Prayer

Mr Christopher Bedingfield, QC
Evening prayer in memory of Mr Christopher Ohl Macredie Bedingfield, QC, Recorder of the Crown Court and Master of the Bench of Gray's Inn, was held yesterday evening in the Chapel of Gray's Inn. Canon Eric James officiated. Mr Anthony Butcher, QC, Dean of Chapel, and Mr Conrad Dehn, QC, Treasurer, read the lessons. Lord Hooson, QC, gave an address.

Church news

The Rt Rev John Perry, Suffragan Bishop of Southampton, diocese of Winchester, is to be Bishop of Chelmsford, succeeding the Rt Rev John Waine on his retirement.

Other appointments
The Rev Rosanna Martin, Curate, Stanford-in-the-Vale w Goosey and Hatford: to be Assistant Curate in the Abingdon Team Ministry, w special responsibility for Long Furlong (Oxford).
The Rev Dr Susan Penfold, Hon Curate, Cononley w Bradley: to be *also* Associate Diocesan Director of Ordinands (Bradford).
The Rev Joy Porter, Curate, Chipping Norton w Over Norton (Oxford): to be Port Chaplain, Missions to Seamen, Hong Kong (diocese Hong Kong and Macao).
The Rev Richard Salenius, Vicar, St John the Evangelist, Macclesfield (Chester): to be Vicar, Brightlingsea (Chelmsford).
The Rev Roger Stillman, Rector, St Paul's, Wokingham: to be *also* part-time Chaplain, Wokingham Hospital (Oxford).
The Rev John Tipping, Priest-in-charge, Mersham w Hinxhill and Sevington and Brabourne w Smeeth: now *also* Rural Dean of North Lympne (Canterbury).
The Rev Nicholas Watson, licensed to officiate in the diocese of Durham w special responsibility for the conventional district of Stockton on Tees Holy Trinity, Greenvale, and for ministry in Ian Ramsey Church of England (Aided) Comprehensive School: to be Priest-in-charge, Stockton Holy Trinity, and Chaplain to Ian Ramsey School (Durham).
The Rev Tony Whalley, Rector, Newton Longville w Stoke Hammond and Whaddon: to be Vicar, Winslow w Great Horwood and Addington (Oxford).
The Rev Robert Avery: to be fulltime Curate, Great St Mary's Church, Cambridge (Ely).
The Rev Nicholas Baines, Vicar, Rothley: to be also Rural Dean of Goscote (Leicester).

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If the confession 'Jesus is Lord' is on your lips and the faith that God raised him from the dead is in your heart, you will find salvation.
Romans 10 : 9 (REB).

BIRTHS

BROWN - On January 16th, to Kathy and Adrian, a son, Robert John Rae, a brother for Georgina.

COALES - On January 17th 1996 at St Thomas' Hospital, to Una and William, a daughter, Emily Alexandra Mary.

DAVEY/ROBB - On 20th January 1996 at Mayday Hospital, to Rachel and Kevin, a beautiful son, George Douglas John.

GRIFFITH-JONES - On January 23rd, to Camilla and Huw, a son, Alexander James Thomas Eliot, a brother for Eleanor.

HANNAFORD - Maud Ellen, to Laurence and Guillaume, on Christmas Eve, at Paris, a charming daughter.

HARRIS - On 21st January 1996, to Karen and David, a daughter, Louise Rachel Jane, a sister for Robert.

JOHNSON - On 21st January 1996, to Peter and Suzie (née Fiske), a daughter, Lily Margaret Jane, a sister for George.

KARLSSON - On January 21st at The Portland Hospital Michelle Marie was welcomed by Rose Marie, Erland and sister Emilie.

KIRKPATRICK - On January 16th, to Miranda (née Fitzwilliam-Lay) and Francis, a son, Augustus John. A brother for George and Henry.

MARSHALL - On 12th January, in Halifax, to Matthew and Siân, a third daughter, Hannah Eleanor Quinlan, a sister for Rebecca and Charlotte.

PARTON - On 17th January 1996 at Good Hope Hospital, Sutton Coldfield, to Patricia (née Williams) and Tony, a daughter, Emma Rose, a sister for Clare.

ROWSE - On 22nd January, to Penelope (née Gray) and Peregrine, a daughter, Alice Penelope, a sister for Tessa and Lydia.

SLAYTOR-VICE - Philippa Vice and John Slaytor are happy to announce the birth of Millie on 11th January 1996 in Sydney, Australia: Amelia Kate Slaytor.

BIRTHS

SMYTH-OSBOURNE - On January 21st, to Claudia wife of Julian, a son, Luke.

WATTERS - On January 18th, to Nicola (née Utley) and Paul, a daughter, Melissa Rose, a sister for Hannah.

WILDSMITH - On 19th January 1996, to Stella (née Dyson) and Max, a son, Sam Edward, a brother for Katie, Robert and Harry.

WILLIS FLEMING - On January 8th, to Melanie (née Lawson) and Somerset, a daughter, Ella Lucy.

DEATHS

ALEXANDER - On January 20th aged 3 months Charles Joshua, dear sweet son of Douglas and Rosie Alexander of Ripon and a treasured grandson. Service at Ripon Cathedral on Saturday January 27th at 11.45 am, followed by interment at St John's Church, Sharow. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, may be given to the Children's Heart Surgery Fund, Killingbeck Hospital, Leeds. A plate provided in the cathedral or c/o F. Lowley & Son Ltd., 13 Low Skellgate, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 1BE.

ASKE - Rebecca (née Fraser Grant), of Worcester, passed away peacefully on January 21st. Much loved wife of the Reverend Sir Conan Aske, B.T. The funeral is to be held at St John's Parish Church on Wednesday January 31st at 1.45 pm followed by cremation at Worcester. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to Cancer Research, c/o Bedwardine Funeral Service, 1 St Johns, Worcester, tel: (01905) 748811.

BIRKSTED - Kai, D.S.O. O.B.E. D.F.C., on January 21st peacefully at home, beloved husband of Sonia, dear father and grandfather of Ian, Sasha and Noah and father-in-law of Dana. Cremation at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, on Friday 26th January at 12 noon. Enquiries to Levertons, 181 Haverstock Hill, NW3, tel: (0171) 586-4221.

DEATHS

EVANS - On 20th January 1996 Lionel James Carlyon OBE, dearly loved husband of Eulalie, father of Robin, Margaret and Janet and grandfather of Jason, William, Sebastian, Fiona and Heywood. Private funeral. Family flowers only please. Thanksgiving Service to be announced. All enquiries to S.A. Bates Funeral Directors, 115 West Street, Dunstable, Beds. (01582) 663633.

FROST - On January 14th 1996 whilst on holiday in Majorca, Ronald, of Sidmouth, Devon, aged 86 years. Beloved husband of the late Bessie, father of Richard, father-in-law of Patricia and dearly loved grandfather of Alexandra, Timothy and Amanda. Cremation private. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at All Saints Church, Sidmouth on Saturday February 17th at 6 pm. Enquiries to Potbury's Funeral Service, tel: (01395) 513366.

HALL - Anne (née Mathew-Lannowe), cherished wife of the late Philip Hall, died suddenly but peacefully in Bath on January 20th aged 76. Much loved and mourned by family and friends, especially her sons: Neil and Richard, her daughters-in-law: Lucinda and Joanna and her grandchildren Tarquin, Alexander, Bella, Rory and Joshua. Funeral arrangements (flowers or donations) tel: Jollys (01225) 426822.

HANN - Bertha Glennie ARAM LRAM, daughter of the late Major and Mrs G.C. Hann, peacefully on 17th January at Farnham, Surrey. Funeral 10.30 am 30th January St Andrew's Church, Farnham, followed by cremation at Aldershot. Family flowers only. Donations to Musicians Benevolent Fund, 16 Ogle Street, London W1, if desired.

DEATHS

HARRIS - Donald Bertram, aged 91, on 20th January 1996. Greatly loved by his family and many friends. Requiem funeral service at St Paul's, Wilton Place, SW1 on Tuesday 30th January at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations in memory for St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy, c/o Kenyons, 74 Rochester Row, London, SW1P 1JU.

HENNIKER - On January 21st 1996, peacefully Alison Margaret, aged 86 years, daughter of the late F.C. Henniker and Mrs A.R. Henniker of Woodbridge, Suffolk. Funeral Service at Ipswich Crematorium, West Chapel, on Tuesday January 30th at 2 pm.

HODGKINSON - Hughie (Lt. Commander RN DSC), beloved husband of Wendy and father of Peter Hugh, Ianthe and Tim, died Monday January 22nd. Private family cremation. Thanksgiving Service to be announced.

JERMAN - Kathleen Joy, of Kerry, near Newtown, on Saturday, 20th January 1996. Beloved wife of the late Noel Jerman C.B.E. Funeral service strictly private. A public memorial service will take place at St Michael & All Angels Church, Kerry, on Sunday, 11th February at 3 pm. Donations to St Michael's Church or Montgomery Medical Practice. Enquiries please to Leach & Son, Llanidloes Road, Newtown, Powys, tel: (01686) 626208.

JONES - On 18th January 1996 Eileen Gwynn, widow of Reverend Harold Edward Jones, formerly of The Vicarage, East Grafton, Marlborough, Wiltshire. Funeral Thursday 1st February, service and cremation at Kingsdown Crematorium, Swindon 2.30pm. Flowers may be sent to the Hillier Chapel of Rest, Broadway, Whitworth Road, Swindon SN2 3BL. Enquiries tel: (01793) 522797.

DEATHS

KINGSCOTE-BILLINGE - Lionel on 22nd January peacefully aged 72 years. Much loved husband of Stella and father of Helena, Philippa and Edwina. No flowers please. Donations to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, 6 White Hart Lane, Wellington, Somerset TA21 8HN.

LARKIN - Lieutenant Colonel C.W. Larkin OBE MA. On 23rd January 1996 aged 66, after a brave fight against cancer. Loving husband of Catherine (Oil), father and friend to Patrick and Richard, beloved son of Norah. Funeral Service Tuesday, 30th January 1996 at 12 noon at St Michael's Church, Winterbourne Gunner, nr. Salisbury. Family flowers only but donations to the Salisbury Hospice Care Trust would be greatly appreciated c/o I.N. Newman Ltd., Funeral Directors, Griffin House, 56 Winchester Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 1HL, tel: (01722) 413136.

LIGHT - Nora died peacefully at home on January 20th, widow of Horace. A dear cousin and friend. The funeral takes place at Guildford Crematorium on Friday 26th January at 3pm.

LUBIENSKI - Count Ludwik (Lulu) Maria, M.B.E., Knight of the Hon. and Dev. of the Sovereign Order of Malta, Major of the Polish Army and ADC to General Anders. Pluri decorated. Born May 6th 1912 in Kazimierza Wielka, Poland, died 22nd January 1996 in London. Deeply beloved by Tania, daughters Ruta, Gaba and Anna and grandchildren Lara, Marc and Isabella. Funeral Mass St John the Evangelist, Ravenna Road, Putney, SW15 on Monday 29th January 1996 at 3 pm, followed by cremation to be attended by family only. Request no flowers - any donations to the Polish Ex-Combatants Association, c/o POSK, 234 Kings Street, London W6 0RT.

DEATHS

MORGAN - Brenda on January 22nd peacefully in hospital aged 83, the dearly beloved wife of the late Philip and dearly loved mother of Richard and James and a dearly loved grandmother. Funeral Service at South Bristol Crematorium on Monday January 29th at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, for RNLI c/o Michael W. Rowe Funeral Director, Tunbridge Cottage, Chew Magna, Bristol, tel: (01275) 332866.

MANGLE - On 23rd January 1996, peacefully, Margaret, deeply loved wife of Jock for 56 years, devoted mother of Joss, Harriet and Julian: adored by her 11 grandchildren. Funeral Service at the Church of St John the Baptist, Wonersh, near Guildford, on Monday 29th January at 2.30 pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please.

PEARN - Elizabeth Mary (Betty) of Aylmerton, Norfolk, on 19th January peacefully in hospital after a long illness bravely borne. Daughter of the late Bob and Margaret Pearn, dearest sister of Jean and Ralph (Bonnett) and a much loved aunt of Andrew. A private Requiem Mass on Saturday January 27th, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving for her life at St Faith's Crematorium on Monday January 29th at 2.30 pm. No flowers by request but donations if desired for the Friends of Cromer Hospital, c/o Fox's Funeral Services, 10 Canada Road, Cromer, NR27 9AH, tel: (01263) 512427.

PICKERING - Doris Mabel. Peacefully on 20th January, the beloved wife of Jack Pickering and very much loved mother and grandmother. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Old Heathfield at 3 pm on Tuesday 30th January. Family flowers only. Donations if desired, made payable to her favourite charity - Grove Park Special School, Crowborough and sent to R. Jarvis, Funeral Directors, Cross-in-Hand, Heathfield, Sussex, TN21 0SR. (tel: 01435-86-2633).

DEATHS

ROBERTSON - Harry, also known as Harry Robinson, Composer, Writer and Producer, died peacefully at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton on 17th January after a long illness. He was much loved by his family and will always be remembered. Private cremation.

SLADE - Olive (née Tanner) on January 18th 1996 gently aged 91 years. Respected, well loved friend, aunt and stepmother. Funeral 1.45 pm Friday January 26th West Herts Crematorium. Flowers or donations to Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust c/o J. Worley F/D, tel: (01442) 263466.

SMITH - R. Geoffrey, on 19th January in his 92nd year, of Yoxford, Suffolk. Beloved husband of Mollie and father of Sonia and Bridget. Funeral at St Peter's Church, Yoxford on Monday 29th January at 12.30 pm. No flowers please but donations if desired for the YMCA (Ipswich) may be sent to Woolnough Funeral Services, The Chapels, Holton Road, Halesworth IP19 8LR.

SQUIRES - Arthur William died 19th January 1996. Reunited with his beloved Patty. Father of Patrick, Alicia and Francis and grandad to Owen, Patrick Eugene and Roisin. Funeral 29th January 12 noon Clevedon Friary. R.I.P.

THOMAS - On 22nd January 1996, suddenly at his home. Edward Eastaway Thomas O.B.E., D.S.C., FRHist.S. Historian. Wartime Naval Intelligence Officer (Bletchley). Much loved husband of Ruth, devoted father of James and Jocelyn and grandfather of Brendan, Amy, Giles, Christopher, Marie and Lamorna. Funeral on Monday 29th January at St Martin's Parish Church, Dorking, Surrey at 1 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations to Salvation Army. Enquiries to Sherlock and Sons, Trellis House, Dorking, tel: (01306) 882266. Memorial Service to be announced later.

DEATHS

THOMAS - His Hon. Dewi Alun Thomas M.B.E. on 19th January 1996 aged 78. Much loved husband of Doris and father of Siân and David. Private cremation on 28th January.

WILLIAMS - Dr. Joyce Beverley Williams M.B.E., (née Jewson), on January 22nd, suddenly but peacefully in hospital aged 85. Widow of Dr. Denis Williams, mother of Christopher, Joanna and Hilary. Former long-standing London magistrate. Private cremation. Memorial Service to be announced.

WINGFIELD DIGBY - Basil, M.B.E. Formerly Vicar of Sherborne and Archdeacon of Sarum. Aged 85. Peacefully in his sleep on Monday January 22nd at Eastbury House, Sherborne. Much loved husband of the late Barbara and devoted father and grandfather. Funeral at Sherborne Abbey, 2.15 pm, Wednesday January 31st 1996. No flowers. Donations to the Friends of Sherborne Abbey or Friends of Salisbury Cathedral, c/o Eason Funeral Services, Newell, Sherborne. (01935) 813479.

ZIEGENBEIN - Barbara, beloved wife of Clifford, peacefully and suddenly at home on 15th January. Funeral private.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

BESSEMER CLARK - A Memorial Service for Anthony Bessemer Clark will be held at All Hallows by the Tower, Byward Street, London EC3 on Tuesday, 19th March 1996 at 1145 hours.

FILMER-SANKEY - A Memorial Service for Patrick Filmer-Sankey will be held at the Church of the Assumption of Our Lady, Warwick Street, London W1, at 11.30 am on Thursday 15th February.

FOXCROFT - A Memorial Service for Geoffrey Edward will be held in Rugby School Chapel on Saturday April 20th at 2.15 pm.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

FISHER - Kathy who died 24th January 1990. Loving you always. Eden.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GILCHRIST - The family of the late Mary Lyle Gilchrist wish to thank all relations, friends and neighbours for kind expressions of sympathy in their recent sad bereavement. Special appreciation to those who contributed so generously to the Children's Hospice, Kinross, Fife.

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

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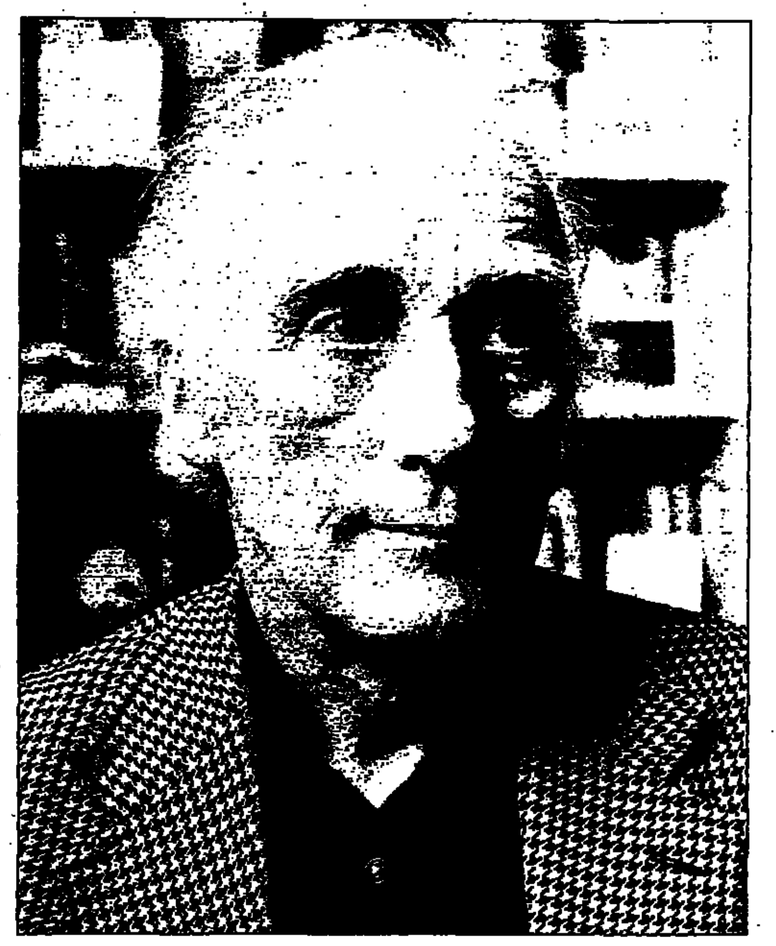
OBITUARIES

NORMAN MacCAIG

Norman MacCaig, OBE, poet, died yesterday aged 85. He was born on November 14, 1910.



NORMAN MacCAIG was one of the most important Scottish poets of this century. Unlike his compatriot, Sorley MacLean, he was never tempted to experiment in Gaelic. Nor was he particularly avant-garde in his use of rhyme or metre. During certain parts of his writing career, indeed, he wrote in quite a conventional manner. But mostly, he worked a creative middle ground between the traditional and the experimental.

Like John Donne, his formative influence, he was essentially a love poet, but not just in the romantic or erotic sense. He also wrote about the environment he knew and loved best: Edinburgh, and the Scottish countryside around Assynt, in southwest Sutherland, where he spent every summer. He dug deep in search not just of his own roots but of common human roots. His poems evoked a world of water and stone, small lochs, city streets at night, and among other enthusiasms — "grasshoppers, fishes, snails and me".

He was the epitome of the absent-minded poet. Once, travelling on a bus in Edinburgh, he was so lost in thought that he sat next to a pretty young woman without taking much notice of her. It was only after he got home that his amused daughter revealed that she had been the young woman in question.

Norman Alexander MacCaig was born in Edinburgh and educated at the Royal High School and at Edinburgh University. His first book of poems was *Far Cry*, published by Routledge (as were all his earlier works) in 1943. Before that, his only substantial appearance in print had been in the anthology *The White Horseman*, edited by his fellow Celts J. F. Hendry and Henry Treece. It was subtitled "prose and verse of the new apocalypse", and had been published in 1941.

It can be assumed that Herbert Read took a fatherly interest in these neo-Romantic effusions, for the poets of the "new apocalypse" seem to have derived some of their political or anti-political styles from his anarchism. Their poetical clothes, however, were then cut in the modish Dylan Thomas style. Thomas himself had a low opinion of it all, referring to the "apocalapse" and making dark jokes about not being able to "tell the wood from the Treece". MacCaig's nine poems in *The White Horseman* were no better or worse than most of the other contributions. He continued his apprenticeship in the clotted verse of *The Inward Eye*, published in 1946.

If the story had ended there, it would have been forgotten. MacCaig was, after all, 36 years old at the time of the publishing of *The Inward Eye*, and one could have assumed that his ways were set. A critical verdict then might have set him down as an incurable rhapsodist, a writer of incantatory rubbish. Times change, though, and poets grow up and recover from their first few bouts of language. After the Second World War — during which he was a conscientious objector — MacCaig was employed as a teacher in primary schools in Edinburgh. At the same time he worked away, refining the richness of his early outpourings, simplifying an almost irritable alertness of the senses in the interests of clearer communication. The poems in *Riding Lights* (1955) marked the emergence of a new poet:

Self under self, a pile of selves I stand
Threaded on time, and with metaphysic hand
Lift the farm like a lid and see
Farm within farm, and in the centre, me.

He was, as one critic remarked, the man who put the *me* in metaphysics. But the early verbal surface, as thick as glue and only slightly less gelatinous, was gone for ever. *Riding Lights* and *The Sinai Sort* (published by Hogarth in 1957, as were all his subsequent publications) showed a tougher intellectual manner. These were confident, clever, rhetorical poems, committed to the thoroughly Donneish notion that "hard feeling is true exercise for wit", and finding far-fetched ways to break straws with the best of them:

. . . . that straw
That shows the way the wind blows, from what start
To some large ending in the human heart.

The poems in these books, however intricately fashioned, never give a sense of insincerity, but they do tend to talk to themselves somewhat exclusively, posing a number of questions that are elegant rather than urgent. *Poem for a Goodbye* and *Gifts* stand as MacCaig's best work from this time. They were poems with a pressure of lived experience behind them, carefully patterned shapes of sound and image where the very care seemed to test the gravity of what is being said. It was work like this that Edwin Muir was thinking of when he announced of MacCaig: "He is a *real* poet."

Six books followed during the 1960s: *A Common Grace* (1960), *A Round of Applause* (1962), *Measures* (1965), *Surroundings* (1966), *Rings on a Tree* (1968) and *A Man in My Position* (1969). Each book saw the poet growing less complicated, less ceremonious, less tense. The process looked like a gradual maturing, although it was not to everyone's taste. It was possible to suspect, for instance, that a poem like *The Men from Assynt*, originally commissioned by the BBC, represented a dilution of thoughts and feelings about landscape which would have been more stringently expressed in the days when the poet's musings were at least given backbone by the demands of end-stopping rhyme.

In other poems — for example *Numismatist*, *God in the Grass*, and the title poem of *A Man in My Position* — even musing dwindled to a single thread, and one extended image was asked to do all the work. Norman Cameron used to manage this kind of thing excellently, but in MacCaig's hands it sometimes had less of a concentric clarity than a slightly factitious air, as of fancy circumscribed in an attempt to make it mean something extra. The last five lines of *Numismatist* could even be taken as a metaphorical description of the activity:

But see me now —
blackjawed medieval smalltime crook
shaking gold coins in a bag
for the pinch of rich dust
left in the bottom.

MacCaig's "gold coins" — the counters and concepts of this poetry — had not lost their value. However, they did grow a bit smooth and he had to shake them harder and harder in the bag to get the required pinch.

In 1967 he gave up his schoolteaching to become the first holder of the Writing Fellowship at the University of Edinburgh. MacCaig proved immensely popular and successful in this capacity, and it was followed by another academic appointment in the University of Stirling. His *Selected Poems* appeared in 1971. It showed the poet's own view of his work to be in accord with the commonly held critical opinion that his progress had been a sort of gradual paring down.

Sometimes, as in a slender piece of whimsy such as *Flooded Mind*, a single metaphor is turned inside out or upside down and then made to do the work of a poem, wandering down the page with a look of discovery which the actual language never quite reports.

This, though, is to criticise from the highest standards a genuine poet who threatened briefly to be a 20th-century Donne in lines like these, from *Poem for a Goodbye*:

When you go through
My absence, which is all of you,
And clouds, or suns, no more can be my sky,
My one dissembling will be all —
The inclusive lie
Of being this voice, this look, these few feet tall.

In his later years MacCaig published less, particularly after the death in 1990 of his wife, Isabel, whom he had married in 1940. His *Collected Poems* (1985), republished in 1990 to mark his 80th birthday, was all the same a substantial volume, and several critics hailed him then as the greatest living Scottish poet, the natural successor to his old friend Hugh MacDiarmid.

MacCaig himself, while knowing his own worth, tended to be indifferent to praise and blame alike. It was typical of the man that on the eve of his 80th birthday he described on television his method of writing as just sitting down with a blank sheet of paper and letting his mind wander freely down the page, as he thought about places and friends. He liked to claim that it took him about as long to write a poem as to smoke a cigarette.

MacCaig was appointed OBE in 1979 and among other honours he was perhaps most pleased by having being made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1983. He spent all his adult life in Edinburgh, with the exception of the period at Stirling.

He was always his own man, and once declared in a poem called *Patriot*,

my only country
is six feet high
and whether I love it or not
I'll die
for its independence.

In his person, MacCaig was tall, thin, graceful, quizzical, gentle. He could be sarcastically witty in conversation but his epigrams seemed like the prickles of a hedgehog — something useful to protect an essentially shy nature. Some of them, delivered in a snapping voice at a poetry reading or just as likely on a windy Edinburgh street corner on a chance meeting with a friend, deserve to be remembered as much as anything he wrote: "Whenever I hear the word gun I reach for my culture."

He is survived by a son and a daughter.

GILES PLAYFAIR

Giles Playfair, author and penal reformer, died in Paris on January 17 aged 85. He was born on September 27, 1910.

GILES PLAYFAIR was a writer and broadcaster whose work was principally related to the theatre and to penal reform. He was the son of Sir Nigel Playfair, the well known actor-manager and proprietor of the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith.

Brought up in the heart of theatrical and literary London in the 1920s, he counted among his godparents two of the most renowned stage stars of that time, Mrs Patrick Campbell and Henry Ainley. However, his father's determination that he should not follow in his own professional footsteps ensured that Playfair's involvement in the theatre in adult life was only peripheral.

Sent to school at Harrow, Giles William Playfair went up from there to Merton College, Oxford, in 1929. During his time at Oxford he enjoyed spectacular success — only perhaps rivalled by his predecessor by five years, Sir Gyles Isham — in becoming editor of *Cherwell*, secretary of of the Oxford University Dramatic Society and treasurer of the Oxford Union. Many of his exploits are still remembered — above all, the occasion on which he took the Hollywood star and actress Tallulah Bankhead up in a balloon.

But his remaining contemporaries will also recall his performance in the Basil Dean production of Flecker's *Hassan*, where he played the title role opposite Peggy Ashcroft and Thea Holme. Where he was unlucky was in his controversial run for the OUDS presidency in which he narrowly failed to defeat the official candidate, George Devine, later to become the hero of the Royal Court. It was as a result of this thwarted bid to run OUDS that Playfair went on to found the Merton Floats, the college drama society which exists to this day.

On coming down from Oxford, he was called to the Bar in 1934, but finding the financial rewards somewhat meagre, prudently secured an industrial position in Manchester. During the immediate prewar years, he supplemented this job in industry with being the local dramatic critic for the *Daily Express*. He also at this time published the first two of his many books: *My Father's Son* (1937), a biography of his father, who had died in 1934, and *Kean* (1939), still considered to be the standard work on the 19th-century tragedian.

Although he volunteered in 1939, poor eyesight prevented active service in the Second World War. In December 1941, however, he was sent to Singapore to run the Malaya Broadcasting Corporation, escaping three days before the capture of the island by the Japanese to the United States via Australia. In America he worked for a branch of British Intelligence. His earlier experience is described in his journal *Singapore Goes Off The Air* (1943).

He stayed in the United States after the war, first as Professor of Drama at the University of North Carolina and then in a similar capacity at Williams College, Massachusetts, where he also produced a number of plays at the Adams Memorial Theatre in Williamstown. It was here that he met his second wife. The birth of his first son, when he was already well into his forties, seemed to reawaken his ancestral feelings and shortly afterwards he and his wife returned to England.

He immediately became active as a commentator for a variety of newspapers and weeklies as well as broadcasting frequently on the radio (he was one of the regular presenters of a Saturday morning BBC programme of the time called *The Weekly World*).

A lifelong Liberal and the advocate of often unpopular causes, he became interested in penal reform, publishing *The Offenders* and *Crime, Punishment and Cure* (both with Derrick Sington), and *The Punitive Obsession* — all three of which argued against punishment as a successful deterrent to crime. His was also one of the few voices raised against the Mountbatten report on prison security commissioned by Roy Jenkins as Home Secretary in the wake of George Blake's escape from Wormwood Scrubs in 1966.

Although hampered by a serious stroke in 1972, which curtailed his ability to broadcast, he continued to write several more books and various articles, as well as letters to *The Times*. An artist to the extent that he was always highly self-critical of his work, he was, nevertheless, very self-disciplined, even Victorian, in some of his attitudes, regarding, for example, even the resort to a mortgage as evidence of a profligate lifestyle.

Despite ill-health he remained active in the last 15 years, often, to the amazement of his friends, travelling to most corners of the world and lunching frequently at the Garrick where, having joined the club in 1933, he was the senior member. In his latter years he became a vigorous opponent of the admission of women — gloomily predicting that it was eventually bound to happen but boldy asserting that, when it did, "the Garrick Club, as I have known it, will finally have ceased to exist".

Giles Playfair is survived by his wife Ann, whom he married in 1946, and by a son, a daughter and two stepchildren.

ANN BLAIKIE

Ann Blaikie, co-founder of the Co-Workers of Mother Teresa, died on January 14 aged 79. She was born on December 9, 1916.

AN indefatigable bearer of Mother Teresa's spiritual message, Ann Blaikie earned international affection and regard for her selfless work among the poor. "It is not the magnitude of the action which is important," she would say, "but the love which we put into it." Such was her dedication to her work that Mother Teresa herself, the nun whom she had befriended long before the rest of the world had acclaimed her work, was to describe her as her "other self". In 1989 the Vatican awarded Ann Blaikie the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal.

The daughter of an Anglican clergyman, Zaida Ann Simons (as she was before she married) was born in London and educated at Atherley School, Southampton, and Froebel College, Roehampton. She then took a job as a teacher in a London prep school where she numbered Edward Kennedy among her pupils.

During the war she served as a junior commander in the ATS with the anti-aircraft batteries in southern England and Wales. Throughout those years she corresponded with John Blaikie, the brother of her closest friend, whom she had met when she was 19. In order to join him in China, in late 1946 she travelled by flying boat as far as India, making the final stages of the journey in an unpressurised light aircraft. They were married in Shanghai in January 1947. However, two years later the Chinese revolution brought the young couple briefly back to London before John Blaikie took up a position as a lawyer for the British-American Tobacco Company in Calcutta.

It was there that in 1954 Ann Blaikie first met Mother Teresa. The circumstances were characteristically pragmatic. Ann Blaikie had for some time been working in a mission charity shop, until, having become too heavily pregnant to reach the bottom drawers, she felt she must "do her bit" elsewhere. A newspaper article, describing how the then scarcely known Mother Teresa had rescued an abandoned baby from a dustbin, inspired Ann Blaikie to offer her assistance.

Involved at first in meeting the practical requirements of Mother Teresa's young congregation of the Missionaries of Charity, Ann Blaikie enlisted the support of other European helpers, providing food, clothing and toys and raising vital funds. She organised the first campaign "to touch a leper with compassion" and, a gifted speaker, she became Mother Teresa's spokeswoman at the opening of the first leprosy dispensary at Titagarh in 1959.

In September 1960 the Blaikie family moved to Cobham, Surrey. Within days Ann Blaikie was once more engaged in work for Mother Teresa. The need for practical support increased as the Missionaries of Charity foundations spread beyond the boundaries of India. Together with the broadcaster and writer, Malcolm Muggeridge, Blaikie helped to raise public awareness and, as Mother Teresa became increasingly insistent on the spiritual role of lay people who wished to support her work, so too did Blaikie.

Together with Mother Teresa, she drew up a constitution which would bind their co-workers not only in a spirit of service but also in a spirit of prayer. On March 26, 1969, they went together to Rome to present this constitution to Pope Paul VI. It received his blessing.

Ann Blaikie had converted to Roman Catholicism before her marriage, but she brought an ecumenical vision to the International Association of Co-Workers, emphasising the importance of excluding no one on the grounds of creed, nationality or class.

In order to co-ordinate the activities of co-workers throughout the world, Mother Teresa appointed Anne Blaikie her international link and it was in this capacity that, after the death of her husband in 1974, she travelled to more than 60 countries — ranging from Iceland to Singapore. Staying with local people, she worked to spread (sometimes in French) the message of Mother Teresa. The spiritual poverty of the West, she maintained, was a far more complex problem to solve than the material poverty of the so-called Third World.

In 1988 Ann Blaikie retired as international link for the co-workers, yet she continued to dedicate her life to others. Her home in Wonersh, Surrey, was open to all, particularly to the young who came to seek her advice before leaving for far distant countries to help the Missionaries of Charity.

In her latter years Ann Blaikie suffered from Alzheimer's disease. But she remained an active member of her local church.

She is survived by a son and two daughters.

ON THIS DAY

January 24, 1970

Putting the clocks forward and making a fixed date for Easter are issues that the press, Parliament and the public regularly recycle. Last week the Daylight Saving Bill was defeated.

New salvo against BST

Philip Howard on the fight to put the clock back.

Mr. Joseph Godber's Bill to abolish British Standard Time, or "Summer Time" even during the winter months, and to return to Greenwich Mean Time, was objected to yesterday in the Commons on behalf of the Government. It was therefore postponed, and will come up for Second Reading again on May 19, when presumably, with the Government opposed to it, it will bite the dust.

So it looks as though for at least another winter children in Thurso will have to set out for school in the mornings with luminous armbands to make them visible to the traffic; and cowmen in the west of Ireland will stagger around trying to mince turnips and empty buckets in darkness as black as halfway up the chimney.

Meanwhile, Sir Alan Herbert, the devoted defender of Greenwich Mean Time and Big Ben, dedicated enemy of British Standard Time, is about to fire another salvo in this continuing engagement.

His new book *In The Dark*, to be published by The Bodley Head on February 12, examines the whole "Summer Time" controversy at some length and with some indignation. (The title is a quotation, which with hindsight could have been more happily phrased from the Minister introducing the British Standard Time Bill in the Commons: "We are going in the dark here . . . we do not know what the consequences will be.")

The small book examines the history of the daylight saving philosophy from its inspiration by William Willett, a Chelsea builder, at the beginning of the century, to the final abandonment of Greenwich time last year. Sir Alan shyly describes the Second Reading of that Bill in the Commons, with the Government whips on, as "a constitutional outrage".

Although far too gentlemanly and parliamentary a person to call Government spokesmen liars, Sir Alan produces meticulous evidence in support of allegations that, if some of the things said during the passage of the Bill were not barefaced inaccuracies then at least they will do until a barefaced inaccuracy comes along.

Sir Alan argues with lucid vehemence that the motive for introducing perpetual Summer Time was not genuinely industrial, commercial or social, but political, to help to soften the Common Market towards Britain's entry. It was "a shameless piece of sucking-up", so that the Prime Minister could say to the Six: "Look . . . how European we are. For your sake we are abandoning our famous Greenwich time and abdicating from the last 'world-role' that remains to us. We shall begin our loyal association with you by breaking faith with a global concern of which for 83 years we have been the centre. What more can we do?"

As an alternative to dictating by Act of Parliament what time citizens shall get out of their beds in the morning, Sir Alan patriotically offers to the Government his own "painless plan". His Summer Time Bill proposes that no timepieces will be altered and Greenwich Mean Time will be observed throughout the year.

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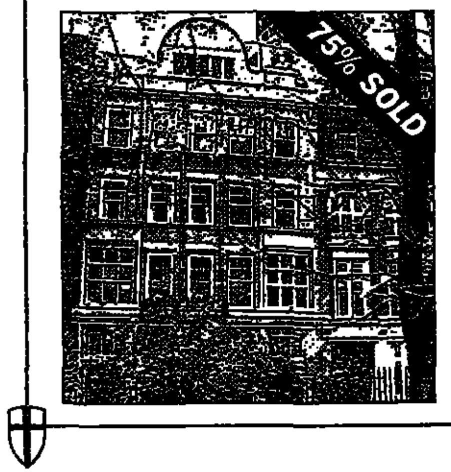

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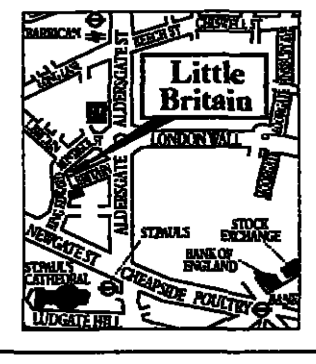

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TRAFALGAR HOUSE EUROPE

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After so many years of doom and gloom, January's housing market could be on the upturn. **Rachel Kelly** analyses the welcome trends

Signs of life in the market

Whisper it gently, but the housing market seems to be on the move. After so many false dawns, it is a recovery which I barely dare to report, but the signs are everywhere.

The upturn of the past few weeks is most marked at the top end of the London market. After slowing in mid-1995, expensive property — especially in Notting Hill, Kensington and Holland Park — is selling quickly again, with prices holding and a surplus of buyers, according to the agents Knight Frank, and Savills.

John D. Wood talks of buyers "storming" its offices in the fortnight after the Christmas break. Property Vision reports two attempted gazumpings in the past month, while Knight Frank's Lorna Vestey notes a 33 per cent rise in sales of more than £1 million in the capital last year compared with 1994.

Now Harrods has announced it is to sell houses again for the first time since 1993. Harrods Estates is to open in a fortnight, opposite the store at 96 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge.

The confidence of the Harrods chairman, Mohamed Al Fayed, in the market is reflected by the company's redevelopment of the Harrods depository at Barnes into flats, and its plans to build the Harrods House Hotel in Trevor Square, adjacent to the store, later this year.

Yolande Barnes, the head of research at Savills, believes that other areas will follow the recovery shown by prime sites in central London, as they have in previous market upturns. But she cautions that cynicism could descend if agents talk up the market. Confidence is crucial and could yet evaporate. "We have seen false dawns before," she says.

Simon Agace, the chairman of Winkworth, London's largest agent, says: "Our figures show a huge increase in the number of buyers actively looking for property at all price levels."

A good January has followed a strong November and December. Price rises will follow in March, Mr Agace predicts. "The increase in buyers at the end of last year has already led to some price growth. This will be consolidated over the spring."

Nick Goble, the manager of Winkworth's Battersea office, reports a surge in the number of buyers disenchanted with high rental costs, while John D. Wood's Fulham office cites the example of a house in Eland Road, SW11. It was valued at £360,000 at the end of 1995, but sold this month for £370,000 after competition between several buyers.

John D. Wood's Chelsea office recorded 172 viewings in the first weeks of this year, compared with 94 viewings in the same week last year, while agents Beaney Pearce report a 50 per cent increase in applicants on its books. Partner Nicholas Pearce talks of a "pressure cooker" of pent-up demand in London, while Linda Beaney reports an increase in the number of developers planning new schemes.

Elsewhere in the country, the Corporate Estate Agents property index provides a record of sales data from half of the country's estate agents, some 3,400 offices. It reports a modest upturn in sales. Peter Constable, a CEA spokesman, says: "Considering that the Christmas period is traditionally quiet, the figures show a glimmer of hope in the last three months of 1995."

A Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors housing market survey (see map) of the last three months of the year is more optimistic: "Prospects look bright, following a Christmas season in which activity held up well." And a survey of 100 agents by the National Association of Estate Agents found a new year surge in homebuying, with 84 per cent of agents reporting a rise in inquiries.

Two areas stand out: Graham Waterton, from Strutt & Parker, says his Salisbury office has been "inundated" with inquiries. Stephen King, a partner at Market Harborough, reports his busiest December and January since the office opened in 1989.

Builders are bullish too. Laing Homes reports that visitors to its developments across the South East are up 60 per cent on the same period last year. The chief executive, Steve Lidgate, says: "The reported increases in house prices over the past few months and the predicted continuation of this trend in 1996 seem to be supported by the growing number of people wanting to buy new homes. Net reservations are the same as last year, but I can't believe that 60 per cent more people are visiting our sites without intending to buy."

Frank Eaton, the chief executive of Barratt, Britain's second biggest housebuilder, agrees: "Early results for January show substantially improved levels of sales inquiries and site visitors." In recent weeks the firm has bought 15 new sites in London and the South East.

Prices seem to be holding. The Halifax has reported that prices rose by 0.3 per cent in December after an increase of 0.3 per cent in November. Although prices are still 1.4 per cent lower than they were a year ago (see graph) there have now been five consecutive months of house price rises.

The latest quarterly register from the Land Registry shows rises of between 2 and 4 per cent for terraces, semi-detached and detached homes. A regional breakdown reveals that the quality market is performing best.

So the signs of recovery are in place. January is no longer the ugly sister of the property market. But why? Some agents believe that Christmas is the only time of the year when busy families can sit down and take decisions. And then there are always sales after the batch of divorces which seem to happen at this time of year.

Peter Miller from the RICS notes the importance of interest rate cuts, better economic news and a rising stock market, stable house prices and forecasts of modest market growth leading to new year optimism. Last week, rates were cut by 0.25 per cent.

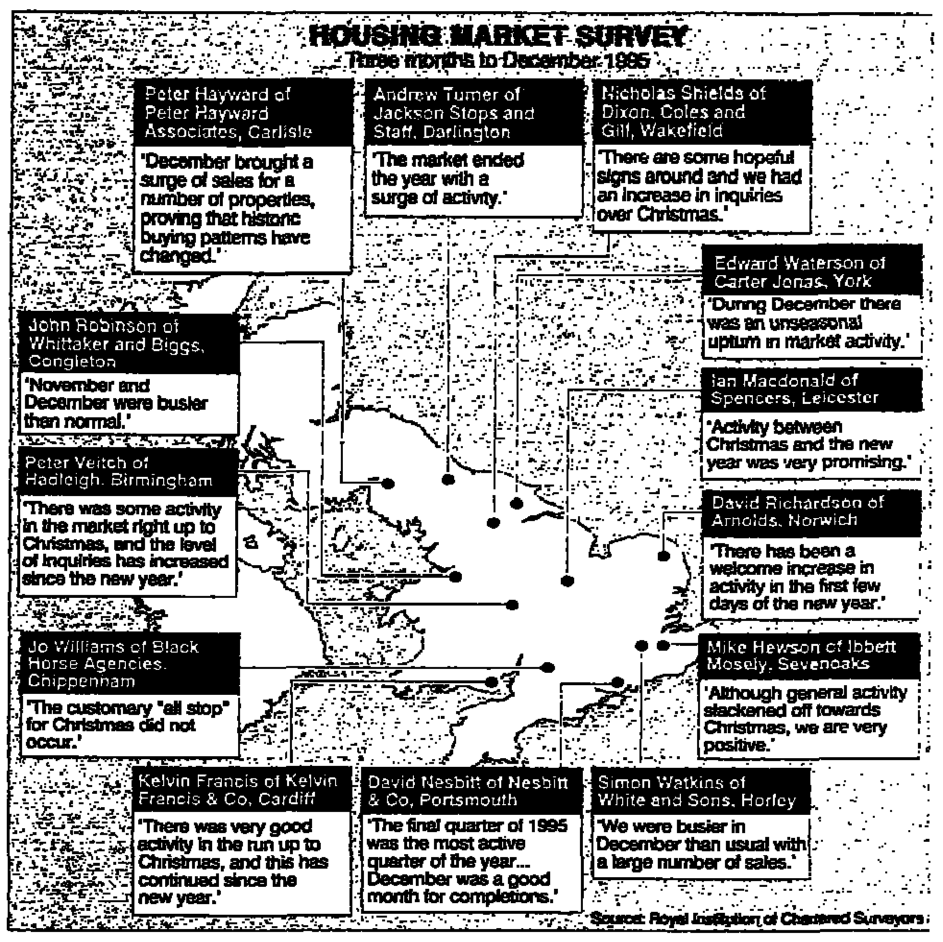
Crucial new demand is being provided by first-time buyers. They have been worryingly absent for the past three years. Mr Agace of Winkworth says, "Buyers are divided into those in their early to mid-twenties who are looking for good-sized studios and one-bedroom flats, and high-earning professionals in their late twenties and early thirties who have held back from buying for six or seven years."

He believes that "with the excellent mortgage deals on offer and 6 to 7 per cent rent rises a year, they are now seeing the wisdom of becoming homeowners". It is now cheaper to buy than to rent. The prospect of a general election means that buyers wish to take advantage of low interest rates while they can.

An election, however, could also spell disaster, halting the market in its tracks, says Nicholas Ashe of Property Vision. And the market has failed to rid itself of the spectre of negative equity. The Woolwich last week estimated that more than one million households are now trapped in homes with loans larger than the value of their property. Later this month, the Council of Mortgage Lenders will report the repossession figures for 1995. In the first six months of last year, the CML reported the first rise for four years in the number of homes being repossessed, to 25,300. The new figures are expected to follow a similar upward trend.

The lending figures are gloomy too. New figures published yesterday by the Building Societies Association show new lending commitments down in December, to £2.4 billion against £3.2 billion in November. Charles Ellingworth of Property Vision feels that some lenders, especially the banks, are still being over-reticent about lending.

For all the signs of recovery, the jury is still out on whether it will prove sustainable.



HOUSING MARKET SURVEY
Three months to December 1995

Peter Hayward of Peter Hayward Associates, Carlisle
'December brought a surge of sales for a number of properties, proving that historic buying patterns have changed.'

Andrew Turner of Jackson Stops and Staff, Darlington
'The market ended the year with a surge of activity.'

Nicholas Shields of Dixon, Coles and Gill, Wakefield
'There are some hopeful signs around and we had an increase in inquiries over Christmas.'

Edward Waterson of Carter Jonas, York
'During December there was an unseasonal upturn in market activity.'

John Robinson of Whittaker and Biggs, Congleton
'November and December were busier than normal.'

Ian Macdonald of Spencers, Leicester
'Activity between Christmas and the new year was very promising.'

Peter Veitch of Hadleigh, Birmingham
'There was some activity in the market right up to Christmas, and the level of inquiries has increased since the new year.'

David Richardson of Arnolds, Norwich
'There has been a welcome increase in activity in the first few days of the new year.'

Jo Williams of Black Horse Agencies, Chippenham
'The customary "all stop" for Christmas did not occur.'

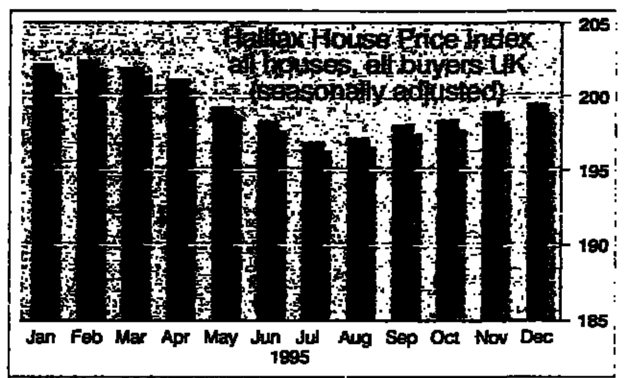
Mike Hewson of Ibbett Mosely, Sevenoaks
'Although general activity slackened off towards Christmas, we are very positive.'

Kelvin Francis of Kelvin Francis & Co, Cardiff
'There was very good activity in the run up to Christmas, and this has continued since the new year.'

David Nesbitt of Nesbitt & Co, Portsmouth
'The final quarter of 1995 was the most active quarter of the year... December was a good month for completions.'

Simon Watkins of White and Sons, Horley
'We were busier in December than usual with a large number of sales.'

Source: Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors



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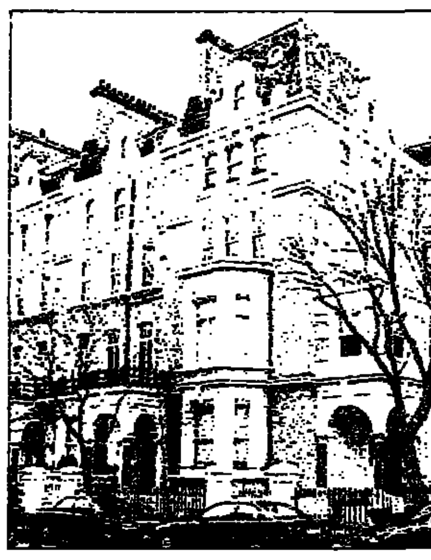

Antonia Gluckstein (top), 24, is a personal assistant at Beaney Pearce estate agents. She is selling her two-bedroom flat in Redcliffe Square, Earls Court, west London (above) for £165,000, and has received two offers for more than the asking price. "I bought the flat as a repossession three years ago for £107,000, have done it up for £20,000, and am now looking to buy another flat and do the same again. My friends are thinking of buying for the first time. They've been renting and it is just too expensive."

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House of Lords

Right of retention in contract

Bank of East Asia Ltd v Scottish Enterprise and Another

Before Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Mustill, Lord Slynn of Hadley and Lord Woolf

[Speeches January 18]

The right of retention in Scots law, that is, the right to resist demand for payment or performance under a contract until some contractual obligation be paid or performed, might be operated against corresponding obligations enforceable but unfulfilled but had no relevance to obligations duly performed.

Accordingly, the defendants were entitled to withhold payment for work done only in respect of loss and damage caused by negligent work prior to the due date for payment and not in respect of loss and damage caused by failure to complete the works after that date.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the defendants, Scottish Enterprise and Stanley Miller (Scotland) Ltd, from the Court of Appeal (Sir Donald Nicholls, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Leggatt and Lord Justice Henry) who on February 9, 1994 had dismissed their appeal from Judge Quentin Edwards, QC, sitting as an official referee, on June 19, 1992.

Mr James Drummond Young, QC, of the Scots Bar, and Mr Sebastian Neville-Clarke for the defendants; Mr Neil Davidson, QC, of the Scots Bar, and Mr Stephen Furst, QC, for the plaintiffs, the Bank of East Asia Ltd.

LORD JAUNCEY said that in 1989 the Scottish Development Agency ("SDA"), now Scottish Enterprise, had entered into a contract, governed by Scots law, with Stanley Miller for the construction by them of factory units.

Payment was initially to be made in monthly stages, but subsequently it had been agreed that no instalment was to be paid until May 15, 1990, Stanley Miller to make their own arrangements for interim funding.

Those arrangements had been made with the plaintiff bank and had involved by way of security an assignation by Stanley Miller to the bank of the full benefit of all sums due and payable by SDA under the contract.

On May 15, 1990 the sum due and payable had been £416,964.72, and it was accepted that prior to that date work had been carried out negligently with resultant loss and damage to SDA of £168,512.40.

By May 29, Stanley Miller had been insolvent: administrative receivers had been appointed and work on the site had ceased. As a result of Stanley Miller's failure to complete, SDA had suffered further loss and damage and also become entitled to liquidated and ascertained damages under clause 24 of the contract.

SDA had made no payment to the bank. It was accepted that they were entitled to withhold payment of the £168,512.40 due in respect of negligent work performed prior to May 15, 1990, but the question for decision was whether they were entitled to withhold payment of the balance from £416,964.72 pending quantification of their claim for damages arising out of Stanley Miller's failure to complete the works after that date.

The judge had held that the law of Scotland was authoritatively stated in *Redpath Dorman Long Ltd v Cummins Engine Co Ltd* (1981 SC 370) and that accordingly Scottish Enterprise were only entitled to withhold payment of sums related to breaches of contract occurring prior to May 15, 1990.

In *Redpath* the Second Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session had held that any retention by the employers could only be in respect of a claim for breach of contract that had been in existence when payment had fallen due under the architect's certificate.

Mr Drummond Young accepted that *Redpath* was indistinguishable on its facts but submitted that it had been wrongly decided and that Lord Justice-Clerk Wheatley had misunderstood what Lord Benholme had meant by "contemporaneous" in *Johnston v Robertson* ((1861) 23 D 646, 652). The key to the problem lay, he said, in the well known principle of mutuality of contract whereby A who had failed to perform his part of a contract could not insist on B performing his.

"Compensation" in Scots law, was the term used to describe the right to set one claim against another. It had no application unless the mutual debts were both liquid in the sense of being presently exigible and of fixed amount.

An exception to the rule that both debts must be liquid arose: "where the illiquid or unascertained claim arises out of the same contract as the debt which is sued for, and where the enforcement of immediate payment would result in enabling the pursuer to obtain satisfaction of his claim under the contract when he has not implemented the obligation of which that claim is the counterpart": Gloag, *The Law of Contract* (2nd edition (1929) p627).

That exception of retention, however, had a more limited effect than compensation: see per Lord Justice-Clerk Inglis in *Borthwick v Scottish Widows' Fund* ((1864) 2 M 595, 607).

In *Johnston v Robertson* Lord Benholme had said: "The plea of the defender is based mainly on the rule of the law of Scotland, that one party to a mutual contract, in which there are mutual stipulations, cannot insist on having his claim under the contract satisfied, unless he is prepared to satisfy the corresponding and contemporaneous claims of the other party to the contract.

"I think the rule of law, that an illiquid claim cannot be set off against a liquid claim, does not apply to such a case: and that, at all events, if the one claim be liquid, and the other partly illiquid, yet contemporaneous, the rule should suffer some qualification or relaxation if the claims arose under one contract. The counter claims must be contemporaneous, for, if not, the rule would apply."

Much argument in the House of Lords had been directed to Lord Benholme's use of the word "contemporaneous". Did it refer to the time when the claims arose or merely to the time when the withholder was sued or tabled the defence as in the case of compensation for liquid debts?

Mr Drummond Young argued that retention was merely an example of the principle of mutuality and that it operated as a defence from the time that payment became due until at least the date of raising of an action if not until decree.

Mr Davidson submitted that retention was no more than a remedy of self-help and that contemporaneity of obligations had to be looked at when it was first operated and not when an *action was raised.*

His Lordship did not consider that the authorities warranted so broad a proposition as that any material breach by one party to a contract necessarily disentitled him from enforcing any and every obligation due by the other party. In applying the general principles enunciated by Lord Justice-Clerk Moncreiff in *Turnbull v Hugh McLean & Co* ((1874) 1 R 730, 738) regard must be had to the terms of the contract in question.

In *Pegler v Northern Agricultural Implement and Foundry Co Ltd* ((1877) 4 R 435, 442), Lord Shand had said: "I venture to think the sound principle is . . . that if the defence be founded on an obligation fairly arising out of the contract, and the performaance of which is reciprocal to and contemporaneous (viz exigible or prestable at the same time) with the obligation which is the foundation of the action, then the defence is good."

If Lord Benholme's use of "contemporaneous" in *Johnston v Robertson* had been intended to be the same as that of Lord Shand there would be no doubt that *Redpath* had been correctly decided. Lord Shand had clearly envisaged not the totality of obligations due under a contract but, rather, specific obligations that were the direct counterpart of other obligations due under it.

His Lordship did not think that Lord Justice-Clerk Moncreiff in *Turnbull v McLean* had intended to state that each and every obligation by one party to a mutual contract was necessarily and invariably the counterpart of each and every obligation by the other. It had to be a matter of circumstances.

Thus in a contract to be performed by both sides in stages the counter-obligation and consideration for payment of stage one was the completion of the work for that stage conform to contract.

When Lord Benholme in *Johnston v Robertson* had referred to "corresponding and contemporaneous claims" he had had in mind counter-obligations that were, as Lord Shand had put it in *Pegler*, "exigible or prestable at the same time".

It followed that retention might be operated against corresponding obligations prestable but unfulfilled but had no relevance to *obligations duly performed.*

Lord Justice-Clerk Wheatley had properly understood *Johnston v Robertson*, and *Redpath* had been correctly decided. The judge and the Court of Appeal had reached the right conclusion.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Mustill, Lord Slynn and Lord Woolf agreed.

Solicitors: Sprecher Grier; Mishcon de Reya.

Court of Appeal

Power to suspend possession order

National and Provincial Building Society v Lloyd

Before Lord Justice Neill and Mr Justice Bennett

[Judgment December 6]

Section 36 of the Administration of Justice Act 1970, as amended by section 8 of the Administration of Justice 1973, empowered a court in the exercise of its discretion, to suspend an order for the possession of mortgaged property, if there was sufficient evidence to lead the court to the conclusion that the mortgagor was likely to be able to pay any sums due under the mortgage within a reasonable period. The question of a reasonable period was a matter for the court in each individual case.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, the National and Provincial Building Society, against the decision of Judge McKinney who, at Bournemouth County Court on May 15, 1995, had suspended an order for possession of mortgaged property made by a district judge against the defendant, Geoffrey William Lloyd.

Mr Ali Malek for the plaintiff; Mr Patrick Hamlin for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the judge concluded that section 36 of the 1970 Act, as amended by section 8 of the 1973 Act, applied to the present case. Against that decision the plaintiff appealed. The plaintiff made two main submissions.

First, it was said that the deferment which was allowed for the sale of a property which was the subject of a mortgage was limited so that only a short time was allowed for the sale to be completed because such a sale, in effect, destroyed the security.

Second, it was said that on the facts of the present case, there was not sufficient evidence to have entitled the judge to make the finding that she did.

In support of the first submission, the plaintiff argued that the authorities established that an order for possession of mortgaged property should only be deferred to allow a mortgagor time to sell such property where the prospects of an early sale were best served by allowing a mortgagor time and, furthermore, the authorities established that any such deferment should be short.

It was true that both at common law and in the more recent cases since the enactment of section 36 of the 1970 Act, it had been said that in the case of the sale of mortgaged property the adjournment or suspension which would be allowed would only be allowed if a sale would take place within a short period of time.

His Lordship did not understand that there was any rule of law to that effect. Accordingly, if there were, in a hypothetical case, clear evidence that the completion of the sale of a property, perhaps by piecemeal disposal, could take place in six or nine months or even a year, his Lordship could see no reason why a court could not come to the conclusion in the exercise of its discretion under section 36 and section 8 that, to use the words of section 36 "the mortgagor was likely to be able within a reasonable period to pay any sums due under the mortgage".

The question of a "reasonable period" would be a question for the court in the individual case.

As to the second submission, the question was whether there was sufficient evidence to lead a court to the conclusion that the mortgagor would be able within a reasonable period to pay the sums due under the mortgage? His Lordship had come to the conclusion that the evidence available to the judge did not establish that.

In those circumstances, his Lordship would allow the appeal.

Mr Justice Bennett agreed.

Solicitors: Dibb Lupton Broomhead, Leeds; Heald Nickinson, Camberley.

Pension disputes go ahead

Cocking v Prudential Assurance Co Ltd and associated actions

The review of pension transactions authorised by the Securities and Investments Board to be carried out by pension providers following allegations of pensions mis-selling was not an arbitration nor an alternative dispute resolution so as to render the pursuit of a court action by aggrieved customers an abuse of process within Order 18, rule 19 of the Rules of the Supreme Court; nor did it entitle the pension providers to be granted a stay of such proceedings pursuant to the wide powers contained in section 49(3) of the Supreme Court Act 1981.

Judge Raymond Jack, QC, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division in Bristol, so held on January 8, dismissing applications by various pension companies to stay six separate actions brought against them by the plaintiffs alleging that they had been wrongly advised to take out personal pension schemes rather than being members of occupational pension schemes.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the review was an administrative process carried out by the relevant companies to identify who might have been improperly advised by them and to offer redress.

The process was not something set out by statute or agreement and the plaintiffs had no legal obligation to submit to it. It was plain that the applications were outside any of the established situations in which an action might be stayed.

Applying guiding principles in tax appeals

Carvill v Inland Revenue Commissioners

Before Sir John Vinelott

[Judgment December 21]

In tax appeals, principles existed to guide the court in exercising its discretion to remit a case stated to the special or general commissioners for amendment. But certain practical considerations had to be borne in mind in applying those principles to the facts of any given case.

Sir John Vinelott, sitting as a judge of the Chancery Division, so stated in a reserved judgment in which he set out the relevant principles and his practical considerations before concluding that an application by the taxpayer, Mr Rory Kerr Carvill, to remit a case stated by a special commissioner (Mr T. H. K. Everett) went far beyond the proper invocation of the court's jurisdiction to remit a case to clarify obscure or ambiguous findings of fact or to make further findings necessary for the proper disposal of his appeal.

Mr Andrew Thornhill, QC and Mr Giles Goodfellow for the taxpayer; Mr Alan Moses, QC and Mr Rabinder Singh for the Crown.

HIS LORDSHIP said that section 739 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 was designed to counter tax avoidance by individuals ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom who transferred assets overseas.

The appeal was against the commissioner's determination that the taxpayer had failed to bring himself within either of the escape routes in section 741 of the Act by establishing that the purpose of avoiding tax liability had not been one of the purposes for his effecting a share exchange and that he had failed to show that a share transfer had been a bona fide commercial transaction not designed to avoid liability to tax.

In an appeal by case stated under section 56 of the Taxes Management Act 1970 the court had jurisdiction on the application by either party to remit the case stated to the commissioners for amendment.

The principles which should guide the court in exercising its jurisdiction were summarised by Mr Justice Scott in *Consolidated Goldfields plc v IRC* ([1990] STC 357, 361).

Thus (i) the findings of fact were for the commissioners; (ii) the parties were entitled to expect that the commissioners would in the case stated make findings covering the matters relevant to the arguments to be adduced on the appeal, and (iii) if a request was made for a case to be remitted for additional findings the applicant had to show that they would be material to some tenable argument, reasonably open on the evidence that had been adduced and not inconsistent with findings already made.

Three practical considerations that were implicit in those principles should be added and were to be borne in mind in applying them to the facts of any given case.

1 It was the usual practice for commissioners to transmit to the High Court with a case stated copies of any documents proved or admitted before them with a copy of any agreed note of any oral evidence. If not transmitted it was open to the court to call for them.

The judge hearing the appeal could be referred to those documents and notes for the purpose of amplifying the case stated. Nothing was gained therefore by remitting a case solely for the purpose of adding material which could be obtained from the documents or notes of evidence.

2 It was for the court to decide on the hearing of the appeal whether a given conclusion followed as a matter of logical or practical necessity from the findings of fact by the commissioners or whether those findings of fact were inconsistent with their conclusions.

No purpose was served by remitting a case for the commissioners to spell out what was implicit or followed as a matter of logical or practical necessity from their findings and conclusions.

3 The issue that most frequently came before the court on a case staed was whether an inference could or could not be drawn from the primary facts admitted or found by the commissioners.

It was for the commissioners as the fact-finding tribunal to say whether any clear pattern or picture emerged in the light of various primary facts, and in doing so they had necessarily to decide which facts they found relevant and what relative weight should be given to them.

The court could interfere only if it could be said that the commissioners' conclusion was an impossible one.

It would be wrong to remit a case for the commissioners to inquire which of the facts proved or admitted they considered to be relevant or irrelevant to their conclusion, just as it would be wrong to ask them to say what, if any, weight they gave to the facts which they did consider to be relevant.

Solicitors: Slaughter & May; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

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I USED to think that highlights were something blondes had done at the hairdresser's. Now I know better. They are those snippets of sport on television which give the essence of a match without requiring you to watch the whole damned thing.

Highlights, I'm told, are not to be confused with the 45-second clips of athletic jubilation that wind up the news. Rather, they are the longer, meaningful extracts, shown minutes or hours later than the live event from which they are taken. They are the raw material from which programmes such as *Grandstand* and *Match of the Day* are pieced together.

Reserved highlights must be the answer to the unstoppable drift of sports to subscription channels. Unstoppable because the technology is unstoppable. More and more satellites are making room for an amount and variety of sport which could never be squeezed into the mixed, general-interest schedules of terrestrial television. Unstoppable too because sports channels attract a hefty paying audience from those viewers who cannot get enough sport.

If only the wise and well-dressed men who sit on sports governing bodies are strong enough to insist on reserving their rights to sell their highlights to conventional television, they should not be lambasted for selling the full live coverage to pay-TV. Yes, even the rights to five-nations rugby on which so much ethnic identity rides, or the Olympics.

As someone who would willingly pay £20 to avoid the Olympics on television, I may not be best placed to pontificate on this vexed matter. Nor, you may say, am I as someone who writes for a newspaper owned by News International, part-owner of BSkyB which is reaping the profits from sports subscription channels.

My own view is coloured more by my association with a quite different organisation. The Society of Authors. The society spends most of its time, and meagre budget, advising writers how to get the best deal for their work. Nobody expects the law to tell them what they must sell to whom under what conditions.

What is the justification for legal intervention in sports deals? I can find nobody who can explain it to me. There are many arguments in favour of the so-called "listed events", but they are based on feeling, not on law.

One is that people do not like having to pay for something they have been accustomed to getting free. How very true. So let's have no more talk of charging for public library services. Let national health prescriptions revert to their free status. And make crossing the Severn Bridge free too.

The other argument is that some experiences are so cherished that they must be protected as part of the national heritage. But why not then use the law to broaden the national experience? Performances at the Royal Opera House and by the Royal Shakespeare Company might also become part of the national heritage if they were televised by statutory command.

The list of events is a parliamentary whimsy. The Test and County Cricket Board would like to get Test cricket off the list but cannot. The list is even more curious in that it has been drawn up to apply to one industry only. The wonder is that the sporting governing bodies have not challenged it in the courts.

When, as now, certain MPs cry "something must be done" about the shift of sport on to satellite, all they can do is to tinker with the wording about this list. Whereas the 1990 Broadcasting Act stipulated that the sacred events — Wimbledon finals, the Grand National and the rest — could not be televised exclusively on a pay-per-view basis, what is now proposed would extend this basis to include cable and satellite subscription channels.

Make no mistake. All that can be protected is these particular events, not whole sports. Were Parliament to try to stop, say, football clubs from selling their seasonal rights to live coverage to subscription television, then, I think, the courts would hear about the matter. The BBC is on particularly shaky ground in this debate. It defends itself against the charge that it has not spent enough on sport by pointing out that its annual £1.7 billion income has to be spread across a great many services, including five radio networks.

WILL WYATT, managing director of television, says: "That is what our licence-payers want us to do." But which licence-payers asked the BBC to set up Radio 5 Live, devoted largely to sport and costing £37 million a year? The BBC has no more the "right" to buy sports at less than the going rate than it does to buy an Andrew Davies adaptation of a classic novel at less than he can get elsewhere. What it should demand is the right to buy the highlights.

And the sports bodies should grant them — in their own self-interest. The law need not come into it. They would be as unwise to exclude the mass audience as they would to sell their exclusive rights to a multibillionaire who wanted the pleasure of watching their games all by himself.

Besides, anti-monopoly law already exists to protect the viewer and new broadcasters. The Department of Trade and Industry's proposals last week will encourage new entrants into the competitive field of pay-TV, but they also insist that any new subscription services should be able technically to reach viewers on the set-top boxes now used to receive Sky.

It is undeniable that some viewers will be deprived by the inevitable slide of sport on to channels. But their numbers should not be exaggerated. The C.D.E income groups are the major purchasers of satellite television. And, according to my dish-installer in bleak mid-Wales, "they all want it for the sport. Only that."

The most difficult PR job in the world

Alexandra Frean reports on what advice the press experts can offer the Princess

The Princess and Patrick Jephson, her private secretary who has just resigned

The Princess of Wales is soon to appoint a new press aide in an attempt to reassert her independence from Buckingham Palace and to help to polish up her image as mother, beauty queen and roving goodwill ambassador in the run-up to her divorce. But who would want to take on a post that is being billed by the public relations fraternity as "the most difficut job in the world"?

The departure earlier this week of Patrick Jephson, the Princess's private secretary, and of two of her support staff, has left her in splendid isolation and has given an added urgency to her need to fill the position — empty since last November when Geoff Crawford, the previous incumbent, resigned after the Princess failed to tell him of her *Panorama* interview. But it is believed a new candidate has already been chosen to do the job on a part-time consultant basis and that he or she will soon be announced. Whoever gets the job will have to represent the Princess at a most sensitive moment; legal discussions about her divorce are likely to begin soon.

Though the Palace press office has traditionally been regarded as a "reactive" rather than "proactive" organisation, specialising more in damage limitation than in building up a positive image of its charges, it can, on occasions, be a formidable opponent — witness the claim this week that the Princess had spread "false allegations" of a personal nature about "Tiggy" Legge-Bourke, the Prince of Wales's personal assistant. What better way to revive speculation that the Princess is a neurotic and vindictive woman?

The PR world was unanimous yesterday in its belief that the Princess's decision to appoint an outside press aide is long overdue, although none was keen to do the job. Mark Borkowski, whose clients include the artist Damien Hirst, said: "It is undoubtedly the most difficult job in the entire world. You would need superhuman efforts to pull it off. It would take someone with the bulldog aggression of Sir Bernard Ingham, the guile and stealth of Alastair Campbell and the dirty tricks of Richard Nixon.

'Now she needs to move onto a bigger stage'

"Any public goodwill she got from the *Panorama* interview has been undone by the volley of attacks she has since faced. It proves that she had no follow-up planned to the interview. You need a plan," Mr Borkowski said. Whoever landed the job would be bound to make enemies in the media as well as at the Palace, he added. "There would be so many people wanting a piece of your top client. You would have to play a tricky game appeasing so many people".

Quentin Bell, chairman of the Public Relations Consultants Association, believes the Princess's next press aide should treat her or his client like a large commercial corporation. He explained: "The first thing I would advise her to do would be to draw a line down a blank sheet of paper. On one side she could list her good points such as charisma, the fact that people want her and her charity work, and on the other she could put the bad things such as her inconsistency and the fact that she is too ubiquitous."

Bell believes that the Princess does not just need somebody well versed in media relations, but also a public relations strategist. "They should make a five-year plan for her — it could be called 'Monarchy 2000' — to decide what her role should be in the Royal Family before and after the divorce. Everything she subsequently does, media-wise, should fit that strategy."

Brian MacLaurin, whose media relations firm MCM once employed (and handled the PR for) Sophie Rhys-Jones, Prince Edward's girlfriend, agrees that adherence to a central strategy is vital.

MacLaurin also believes that the Princess will have to agree to give up her unofficial "war council" of advisers, among them the television presenter and journalist Clive James, Lord Palumbo, former chairman of the Arts Council, and Viscount Rothermere.

Tiggy and her charges

Most experts believe that the Princess— rumoured to be offering £35,000 to £40,000 for the job — should resist the temptation to do her PR on the cheap. Bell believes it would be difficult to find a person of the right calibre to do the job for less than £100,000 a year.

Max Clifford, who has advised Antonia de Sancha, David Mellor's former mistress, and Frank Sinatra said that a more realistic figure for this "very demanding full-time job" would be £250,000 a year. He recommended she employ an American publicist with experience of representing Hollywood stars, together with an English assistant, familiar with court etiquette.

"The Princess of Wales is potentially the biggest star in the world," he added. "She needs somebody with media contacts throughout the world: there are still a lot of territories for her to conquer. She is already the biggest person on our stage; now she needs to move onto a bigger stage."

Stephen Farish, editor of *PR Week*, says the aide would have to be brave enough to stop her taking the initiative and leaking stories to her favourite journalists, such as Richard Kay of the *Daily Mail*.

"She clearly is someone who thinks she know how to make public relations work in her favour, but sometimes she has gone too far," he said. "She will have to agree to accept the advice of the new PR person, otherwise there is no point in appointing one."

Alan Mitchell on an amazing sponsorship rebirth

How the Olympics won the big prize

While broadcasters and regulators fret about the implications of Rupert Murdoch's bid for the right to broadcast the 2000 Olympic Games in Europe, there is one group for whom the bid represents a triumph. For more than ten years, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has been struggling to rescue the games from nemesis. The bid by Mr Murdoch (chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*) is about four times the sum paid by the European Broadcasting Union to screen this summer's games in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Olympic Games are universally acknowledged as *the* global media and marketing extravaganza. For top marketers, they offer brand values and unbeatable images, and for media magnates world audiences; the Atlanta games will be watched by 3.5 billion people.

Twenty years ago, however, the event, plagued by high politics and boycotts, was on its last legs, almost bankrupting host cities. And the IOC itself was a pathetic fundraiser. The sale of broadcast rights for Montreal netted $32 million (£21.3 million), and an army of corporate sponsors generated a measly $7 million.

The IOC's professional marketers have since exploited the rise of global television for all it is worth, and positioned the Olympics as the greatest symbol of universally admired values such as excellence, success, international co-operation and peace. To raise the price of corporate access to the much-sought-after Olympic imagery, that access has been drastically rationed.

This year, a select group of ten carefully chosen global sponsors is paying a total of $300 million for exclusive rights to associate their brands with the Olympics worldwide. Two other tiers of sponsors will provide funds and goods for the games themselves, and for each national team. Together, sponsorships will generate 35 per cent of the $2 billion raised to fund the Atlanta games.

"The Olympic Games," boasts Michael Payne, the IOC's marketing director, "are the ultimate image-transfer device." Nothing about the image is left to chance. To distinguish the Olympics from other sporting events, Mr Payne has banned sponsors' names from appearing on athletes and does not allow any perimeter advertising. To make sure no sponsor injects the wrong values into its link with the Olympics, his team vets every promotion.

And if sponsors do not play by IOC rules, they are dumped. Last time round, the chocolate company Mars enraged the IOC by hard-sell tactics such as having its personnel jump in front of TV cameras. So Mars is no longer a top ten global sponsor.

Meanwhile, the IOC is all geared up to expose, ridicule and lambast so-called ambush marketers: corporations that try to associate themselves with the Olympics without paying dues to the Olympic movement. Mr Payne says: "If a competitor captures some of the imagery, it can undermine the investment."

Sponsor companies clearly think the investment, and the restrictions, are worth it. Olympic imagery of youth, refreshment, the "real thing" and global harmony create a perfect platform for Coca-Cola marketing, for example. Coke is rumoured to have signed a $43 million deal for the millennial games, and surrounding marketing activity will probably cost it ten times that.

Visa, another global sponsor, doubled the number of cards issued in Norway after the 1994 Lillehammer games. When Fuji sponsored the Olympics in 1984, its US market share grew from 2 per cent to 10 per cent in the face of everything Kodak could throw at it. This year, Kodak is one of the Olympics' big global ten.

Companies such as IBM and Panasonic are using the games as living advertisements for their technology. Lou Gerstner, IBM chief executive, calls the Olympics "our ultimate showcase", and says: "The Olympics is live — the whole world is watching."

But as the 20,000 journalists and TV crews attending the Atlanta games begin to plan their coverage of the world's most public event, the IOC itself remains a shadowy body. It is, in fact, rather a bizarre organisation. It is an elite private club with a membership of only 100 — by invitation only. Members include royalty, heads of state, former athletes and businessmen and are accountable to no one. The Princess Royal, for example, is widely seen as one of Britain's representatives on the IOC. In fact, the IOC appointed her to represent it to Britain.

The club's only "asset" is its ownership of the Olympic trademarks: the name and the five-ring logo. No one gave the IOC the right to strut about like this. It simply seized the chance. And now it seems to have it all sewn up. During the four years ending at Atlanta, big business will have forked out $2.75 billion in rights, sponsorship and licensing.

Stars such as Linford Christie are a huge Olympic draw

Uneven playing fields

TO judge by the recent furore about television sports rights, you would think that the BBC had been forced to surrender its entire coverage of sporting events to BSkyB*, the satellite broadcaster, *Alexandra Frean writes*.

In fact, BBC sports audiences remain robust. The corporation's live coverage of the third-round FA Cup match between Newcastle United and Chelsea, in which Les Ferdinand equalised in injury time, attracted a healthy 8.5 million viewers.

Although the viewing figures for Sky Sports, the satellite channel, are tiny when compared with those for the terrestrial channels, they are strong for the sector. Aston Villa's 2-0 victory over Middlesbrough on New Year's Day attracted 1.5 million viewers, while the Celtic-Rangers goalless clash on January 3 also achieved ratings in excess of one million.

Despite its *passé* image, darts did well taking fourth place in both charts.

* BSkyB, is 40 per cent owned by News International, the owner of *The Times*.

THE TIMES SPORTS TOP TENS: NETWORK v SATELLITE

January 1 to January 7, 1996

Network

	Programme	Date	Time	Channel	Producer	Genre	Audience (m) All 4+
1	Football	Sun 07	14.55	BBC1	BBC	Football	8.5
2	Final Score*	Sat 06	16.40	BBC1	BBC	Composite	5.4
3	Match Of The Day*	Mon 01	22.45	BBC1	BBC	Football	4.9
4	World Darts	Sun 07	17.56	BBC2	BBC	Darts	4.2
5	Rugby League	Sat 06	15.00	BBC1	BBC	Rugby	3.5
6	Grandstand: F'ball Focus	Sat 06	12.20	BBC1	BBC	Football	3.3
7	Grandstand	Sat 06	12.55	BBC1	BBC	Composite	2.9
8	Top Gear Motorsport	Fri 05	20.01	BBC2	BBC	Motor Racing	2.3
9	Ski Sunday Special	Mon 01	16.16	BBC2	BBC	Winter Sports	2.0
10	Sport On Friday	Fri 05	15.06	BBC2	BBC	Composite	1.8

Satellite

	Programme	Date	Time	Channel	Producer	Genre	Audience (m) All 4+
1	Football	Mon 01	18.00	SKYS	BSkyB	Football	1.5
2	Football Match	Wed 03	20.00	SKYS	BSkyB	Football	1.1
3	Football Preview	Mon 01	17.31	SKYS	BSkyB	Football	0.7
4	Darts	Mon 01	14.00	SKYS	BSkyB	Darts	0.5
5	Football Intro	Sun 07	12.00	SKYS	BSkyB	Football	0.5
6	Sky Sports Centre	Tue 02	22.15	SKYS	BSkyB	Composite	0.4
7	FA Cup Special	Sat 06	18.00	SKYS	BSkyB	Football	0.3
8	Cricket	Wed 03	08.30	SKYS	BSkyB	Cricket	0.3
9	The Big League	Mon 01	11.30	SKYS	BSkyB	Rugby	0.3
10	Sports Saturday	Sat 06	14.00	SKYS	BSkyB	Composite	0.2

BARB (Broadcasters' Audience Research Board)/David Graham & Associates 01823-322829. Copyright/no unauthorized reproduction. Repeats/second transmissions not aggregated. Highest editions per week only. Incomplete network transmissions marked (*).

Price cuts prove a circulation booster

Strong marketing has paid off, says **Brian MacArthur**

Until the national newspaper price war started in 1994, average sales of daily papers had dropped by a million a day within five years. Since then overall sales have climbed by almost 800,000, proving that cutting cover prices has been the most successful marketing tactic for years.

Another success is that readers persuaded to sample new newspapers over the past two years have not deserted with an increase in prices. Millions of pounds, however, are now being spent on promotions to maintain their loyalty.

At the end of 1995, as our tables show, sales of national dailies were up by 476,000 (after a rise of 300,000 a year earlier), with the tabloids performing particularly strongly. It also looks as if the *Daily Mail* (which did not join the price-cutting war) and has been the main beneficiary of the death of *Today*. When *The Sun* and *Daily Mirror* had a seasonal sales dip, the *Daily Mail* was up by 93,000 in December compared with November.

On Sundays, overall sales slipped by almost 250,000, mainly among the tabloids, where only *The People* held level. Yet the four Sunday broadsheets, which used price-cutting inducements during the year, lost only 13,000 sales (0.50 per cent) overall.

The main success stories of the year were the *Dail Mail* (up 15 per cent), *The Times* (8 per cent), *The Mail on Sunday* (6 per cent) and the *Financial Times* (4 per cent).

Twelve of the 19 papers increased sales. Against fierce competition, the *Daily Mirror* added sales, as did the *Independent* and *Independent on Sunday*. *The Daily Telegraph* still sold (just) over a million a day, and *The Guardian*, without cutting its price, lost only 3,000 a day. With eight new editors in the past few months, the competition this year is already even fiercer.

YEAR-END WINNERS AND LOSERS

Daily titles	Average daily sales	Compared with Dec 94	%
The Sun	4,007,580	+88,518	+2.26
Daily Mirror	2,451,483	+51,835	+2.16
Daily Star	752,194	+25,713	+3.54
Daily Express	1,288,051	+23,808	+1.88
Daily Mail	1,987,349	+259,374	+15.01
The Times	645,303	+46,692	+7.80
The Daily Telegraph	1,036,906	-16,057	-1.52
The Guardian	393,325	-3,166	-0.80
Independent	282,965	+6,965	+2.53
Financial Times	310,200	+12,805	+4.31
Sunday titles			
News of the World	4,581,940	-134,451	-2.85
The People	2,127,806	+2,622	+0.12
Sunday Mirror	2,400,208	-104,996	-4.19
Sunday Express	1,332,194	-70,708	-5.04
The Mail on Sunday	2,043,409	+118,977	+6.18
The Sunday Times	1,237,430	+9,592	+0.78
The Observer	453,380	-14,589	-3.12
The Sunday Telegraph	637,239	-20,078	-3.05
Independent on Sunday	312,247	+11,841	+3.94

Sales for December 1995 Source: ABC

NEWS

Blair fights to mend Labour split

■ Tony Blair was struggling to contain the most serious *breakdown of discipline in his party* since he became leader after he staked his authority on keeping Harriet Harman in his frontbench team.

Labour is now split at all levels over whether she should remain as Shadow Health Secretary. Mr Blair has given her his backing but his deputy, John Prescott, is unhappy about her decision to send her son to a grammar school and scarcely more pleased about Mr Blair's support for her .... **Page 1**

Granada wins control of Forte

■ Granada sealed victory in the £3.8 billion battle for control of Forte, ending the Forte family's 60-year reign at the hotels, roadside cafe and restaurant company they founded. Granada secured the backing of 67 per cent of shareholders.. **Pages 1, 6**

Arms pressure

Britain will come under pressure today to drop its insistence that the IRA must begin to disarm before all-party talks when the International Commission on Terrorist Arms reports that the demand is impractical...... **Page 1**

'Feel-good' promise

Kenneth Clarke predicted the return of the "feel-good" factor this year as he set the stage for a special Cabinet session today devoted to rebuilding Conservative fortunes .... **Page 2**

Divorce Bill move

The Lord Chancellor has agreed to extend the "cooling off" period for divorcing couples to allow *more time to agree arrangements* for their children and meet criticisms from peers .... **Page 2**

Fairytale deal

The family of Enid Blyton, one of the world's greatest children's authors whose centenary falls next year, has sold the copyright to her books for £13 million .... **Page 3**

Town's inheritance

A businessman who died last November has left £10 million to be spent on worthy causes in Scarborough, the North Yorkshire town he loved .... **Page 3**

Girl's 'husband' held

Musa Komeagae, 18, a Turkish waiter who "married" a 13-year-old British girl, was charged with rape and held in jail .... **Page 5**

Rail safety crisis

British Rail was forced to withdraw nearly 100 London commuter trains suspected of having metal fatigue, forcing tens of thousands of passengers to crush into half the normal number of carriages........................... **Page 7**

Careful Britain

Britons are cutting spending, clearing debts and putting spare cash in the bank, says a financial survey .... **Page 8**

Speaker in waiting

Philippe Séguin, Speaker of the French National Assembly and Masstricht critic, has insisted that he does not want to be Prime Minister, while discreetly manoeuvring himself into a position to take over .... **Page 10**

Bandit on film

Bandit Queen, a film about India's most famous outlaw, is about to open in Delhi, where the low-caste, illiterate former gang leader lives .... **Page 11**

Assassin's boast

Yigal Amir, a 25-year-old law student, admitted that he assassinated Yitzhak Rabin at a peace rally last year. He said that he had no regrets.............................. **Page 12**

Meeting the press

America will witness the extraordinary spectacle of its First Lady entering a courthouse on Friday through scrums of journalists and cameramen.............. **Page 13**

Two more staff leave the Princess

■ Two more employees of the Princess of Wales left their jobs as she began the search for a new private secretary to replace Patrick Jephson. The Princess now has only two secretarial staff after the resignation of Nicky Cockell, 32, who had helped Mr Jephson. Stephen Davis, 31, the Princess's regular chauffeur, also announced that he was leaving............. **Page 1**

ANDRÉ CAMARA

The biggest brick-built underground reservoir in Europe being drained for inspection at Honor Oak, south London, yesterday.

BUSINESS

Barings: The administrators have issued writs against the bank's auditors in the UK and in Singapore, and are claiming up to £1 billion in damages .... **Page 25**

Big leap: Farnell Electronics, the electronic components distributor, is acquiring Premier Industrial Corporation of the US in a deal worth $2.8 billion (£1.85 billion)................................ **Page 25**

Economy: Kenneth Clarke forecast improved economic growth even though the latest business survey showed manufacturing activity to be sluggish .... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index fell 19.2 to 3735.0. Sterling rose from 82.9 to 83.0 after a fall from $1.5147 to $1.5145 but a rise from DM2.2354 to DM2.2366 .... **Page 28**

SPORT

Football: Blackburn refused Ireland permission to interview Kenny Dalglish, the favourite among a shortlist of four to succeed Jack Charlton as manager........ **Page 48**

Cricket: Australia agreed to take part in the World Cup despite concerns over security arrangements after threats were made to their players...................... **Page 48**

Rugby union: France will decide tomorrow the disciplinary action to be taken against Richard Dourthe after he admitted kicking Ben Clarke, of England, on the head .... **Page 48**

Tennis: Chanda Rubin reached the semi-finals of the Australian Open when she beat Arantxa Sánchez Vicario in a record-breaking 3hr 33min match.................... **Page 48**

ARTS

Drake on trial: A big National Maritime Museum exhibition to mark the 400th anniversary of Sir Francis Drake's death reopens the debate about whether Drake was a hero or a pirate .... **Page 37**

Kremer's nights: One of the world's greatest violinists has devised a series of London concerts to show off some of his instrument's less known repertoire .... **Page 35**

College capers: Christopher Frayling is expected to become the new head of the Royal College of Art. Does he want the job? .... **Page 35**

Mimed mockery: Ralf Ralf, two brothers who form a brilliant double-act, have staged a sharp and refreshing parody of international diplomacy as part of the London Mime Festival .... **Page 35**

IN THE TIMES

■ **AT THE MOVIES**
Geoff Brown on Whitney Houston and the sisters, Pacino and ***De Niro*** **in** ***Heat,*** **and Almodóvar's** ***Flower of my Secret***

Heart-throb: Omar Sharif talks to Mary Riddell about women, flings and his passion for bridge and horses................................ **Page 14**

Cultural differences: American women are pushy and ambitious, British women get embarrassed, says Kimberly Fortier ...... **Page 15**

Sensitive moment: Who would be willing to become press aide to the Princess of Wales? .... **Page 23**

Welcome trends: There were signs of life in the housing market over Christmas and they have continued into January .... **Page 21**

Higher costs: Companies may pay more for electricity and gas — depending on their area....... **Page 30**

Not only parents but all residents *should be livid that children* — who have no say where they live — are being forced to attend schools where they feel in peril

— *Washington Post*

The Russian president has earned US support and should continue to get it as long as he embraces democratic goals. But Yeltsin won't last forever. He may not even last till summer — *USA Today*

Preview: Robert Maxwell was a spy, a diplomatic fixer and a confidant of presidents. *Dispatches* (Channel 4, 8.30pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss goes on the trail of a *stolen masterpiece* .... **Page 47**

Arms and the men

An elected body could concentrate minds and consolidate fragile trust. It does not deserve to be sidelined in the search for peace ...... **Page 17**

The plot unravels

Neither France nor Germany has voters ready to die for Maastricht — let alone the Euro .... **Page 17**

Five pick a dilly

"Do you mean that we no longer belong to Aunty Enid?" sobbed Anne. "We have been with her since 1942, and I don't feel a day older" .... **Page 17**

SIMON JENKINS

All men may be born equal, blessed with an inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. But when we see little Johnny gurgling in his cradle, the temptation to place the teeniest silver spoon in his adorable mouth can be overwhelming .... **Page 16**

MAGNUS LINKLATER

Across the world tomorrow there will be thousands of Burns Night suppers with their whisky-drenched rituals and their toasts to an immortal memory that is impossibly blurred by myth........ **Page 16**

ALAN COREN

Just now, I put down a brilliant modern English novel I read at a single sitting, and when I tell you that that single sitting began just before just now, you will know that it is a short one, too .... **Page 16**

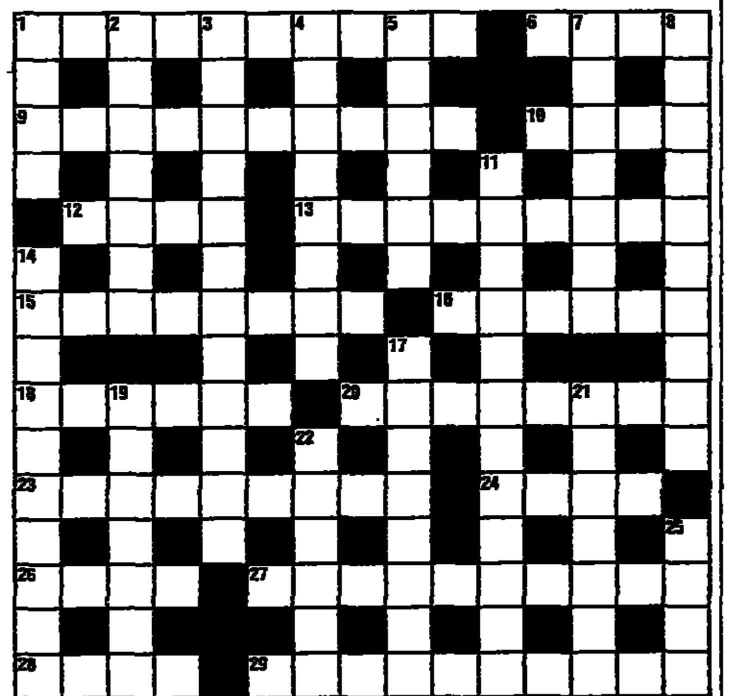
PETER RIDDELL

Ms Harman's vulnerability has provided a way of attacking the "new" Labour strategy. If she is forced to resign, despite the leader's support, it would be a big defeat for the Blair camp.................... **Page 9**

Norman MacKaig, poet; **Giles Playfair**, author and penal reformer; **Ann Blaikie**, co-founder of the *Co-Workers of Mother Teresa* .... **Page 19**

Harriet Harman; hospital beds; drivers' sight tests............. **Page 17**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,072



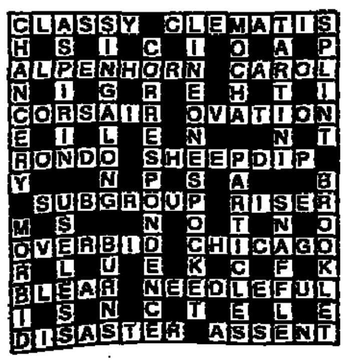
ACROSS

1 Pleasant Democrat potentially a senator? (10).
6 Eat out in estaminet cheaply (4).
9 Filter from by-pass approaching a hill (10).
10 Comfortable with arms folded back (4).
12 Island bird's heading off (4).
13 Hooligan appears to hand out harsh treatment (5,4).
15 Mistletoe held up by host, for example (8).
16 Farewell excessively drawn out (2,4).
18 Wild animal's back at home, first approaching stream (6).
20 Having a proper bearing, about to take off (8).
23 Hunt to collect drinks for marketing promotion (5,4).
24 Chills South with lead of diamonds (4).
26 Gory mayhem in wild party (4).
27 Liberal president objected, holding similar views (4-6).
28 Trifles enjoyed in the nursery (4).
29 Time for our revolution to succeed here and now (7-3).

DOWN

1 Mug's in arrears, without a penny (4).
2 He works a bit, using metal in job, right? (7).
3 Affectedly fashionable person disturbed her host in the end (7-5).
4 Eagerness to construct a real city out east (8).
5 Show promise and seek a reference (4,2).
7 Fruit taste the Spanish love (7).
8 *Outstanding features of* Oxford Street illuminations (10).
11 He speculatively considers the Creation, I recollected (12).
14 Killjoy finds profit suppressing drink (10).
17 Partiality is a failing (8).
19 Decline to mock scapegoat (4,3).
21 Changed over after a mile (7).
22 Weapon gunners used, covering landing area (6).
25 Little boy in a whirl (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,071



Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
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AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
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AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, 10C (50F); lowest day max: Buxton, Derbyshire, -1C (30F); highest rainfall: Jersey, 0.43in; highest sunshine: Tiree, Inner Hebrides, 6.1hr

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will be cloudy. Rain across central and southern parts will slowly die out today to leave most places cloudy and damp. Further north it will be mainly dry, although there may be a few snow flurries in the east.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mostly dry with some brighter spells in the west. There may be the odd wintry shower along higher ground. Eastern Scotland will be cloudy with sleet and snow flurries at times. Northern Ireland may have some rain later.

☐ **London, SE England, Central S England:** cloudy, *rain dying out.* Wind east, moderate. Cold in wind. Max 5-7C (41-45F).

☐ **E Anglia, E Midlands, W Midlands:** cloudy, rain or sleet dying out. Wind east, moderate. Cold in wind. Max 2-4C (36-39F).

☐ **E England, Central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:** cloudy, sleet and snow flurries at times. Wind east, mainly moderate. Cold. Max 2C (36F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** cloudy, rain dying out. Wind east or southeast, moderate. Max 5-7C (41-45F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland:** cloudy, some brighter intervals. Isolated sleet or snow showers. Wind east, moderate, fresh at times. Max 4C (39F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy, sleet and snow showers. Wind east, moderate or fresh. Max 2-4C (36-39F).

☐ **Outlook:** snow showers in the east and south, brighter in the west.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

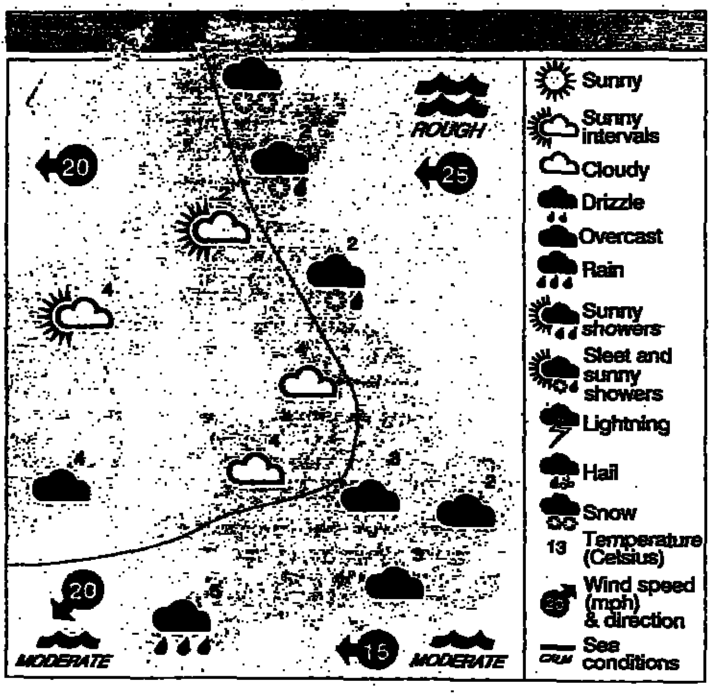
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	-	3	37	c	Littlehmptn	-	0.08	4	39	r
Anglesey	0.9	-	4	39	c	Liverpool	-	-	2	36	c
Aspatria	0.9	-	3	37	c	London	-	0.03	5	41	r
Aviemore	5.1	-	5	41	s	Lowestoft	-	-	2	36	h
Belfast	0.3	-	5	41	c	Manchester	-	-	3	37	c
Birmingham	-	0.06	1	34	sl	Margate	-	0.03	4	39	r
Bognor R	-	0.13	6	43	r	Minehead	-	0.35	2	36	sl
Bournem'th	-	0.11	6	43	sh	Morecambe	1.4	-	4	39	b
Bristol	-	0.27	3	37	r	Newcastle	-	-	3	37	du
Buxton	-	-	-1	30	du	Newquay	X				
Cardiff	-	0.20	2	36	r	Norwich	X				
Clacton	-	0.03	3	37	c	Nottingham	X				
Cleethorpes	X					Oxford	-	0.08	2	36	r
Colwyn Bay	-	-	3	37	c	Penzance	-	0.13	8	46	du
Cromer	-	-	1	34	du	Plymouth	X				
Doncaster	X					Poole	-	0.09	6	43	c
Dunbar	X					Prestatyn	X				
Eastbourne	-	0.22	5	41	r	Ross-o-wye	-	0.24	1	34	r
Edinburgh	-	-	4	39	du	Ryde	X				
Eskdalemuir	0.3	-	2	36	c	Salcombe	X				
Exmouth	-	0.16	5	41	r	Sandown	-	0.08	7	45	r
Falmouth	-	0.18	7	45	d	Saunton Snd	-	0.10	4	39	du
Fishguard	-	0.20	2	36	r	Scarboro'	X				
Folkestone	-	0.12	4	39	r	Shanklin	-	0.12	6	43	r
Glasgow	0.1	-	5	41	c	Shrewsbury	-	0.01	2	36	r
Guernsey	-	0.25	9	48	r	Skegness	-	-	2	36	c
Hastings	-	0.24	4	39	r	Southend	-	0.09	6	43	r
Hayling I	-	0.07	7	45	r	Southport	X				
Herne Bay	-	0.07	3	37	r	Southsea	-	0.13	7	45	r
Hove	-	0.08	6	43	r	St Ives	X				
Hunstanton	-	-	2	36	c	Stornoway	5.2	-	6	43	s
Ilfracombe	X					Swanage	-	0.08	7	45	r
Isle of Man	0.6	-	5	41	c	Teignmouth	-	0.20	6	43	r
Jersey	-	0.43	7	45	r	Tiree	6.1	-	7	45	s
Kinloss	-	-	4	39	c	Torquay	-	0.22	7	45	sh
Leeds	-	-	3	37	c	Tynemouth	-	-	4	39	c
Lerwick	-	-	4	39	c	Ventnor	-	0.08	6	43	r
Leuchars	-	-	4	39	c	Weymouth	-	0.10	6	43	r

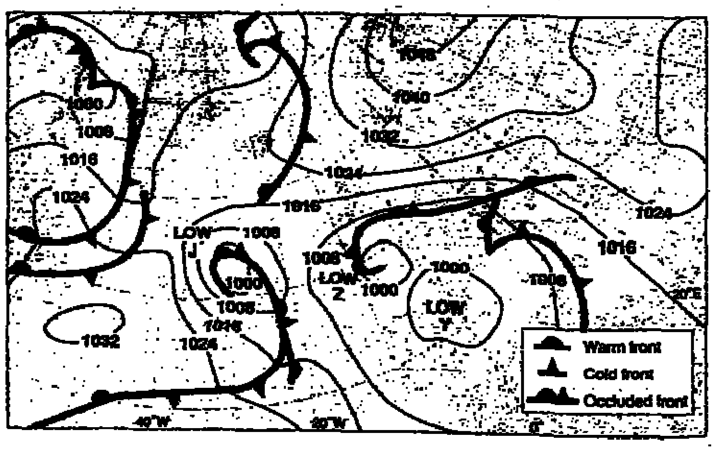
ABROAD

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	18	64	f	C'phagn	-3	27	c	Majorca	15	59	r	Rome	15	59	f
Akrotiri	9	48	r	Dublin	4	39	c	Malaga	12	54	r	S Fr'sco	X	-	
Alex'dria	17	63	f	Dubrovnik	10	50	f	Malta	18	64	f	S Paulo	30	86	f
Algiers	17	63	f	Faro	15	59	c	Melb'rne	21	70	s	Salzburg	-1	30	s
Amst'dm	-3	27	s	Florence	11	52	f	Mexico C	19	66	s	Santiago	29	84	s
Athens	9	48	f	Frankfurt	-2	28	f	Miami	24	75	f	Seoul	0	32	s
Bahrain	16	61	r	Funchal	18	64	f	Milan	2	36	d	Sing'por	31	88	f
Bangkok	34	93	s	Geneva	2	36	f	Montreal	1	34	X	S'kholm	-5	23	sn
Barcelona	15	59	f	Gibraltar	15	59	r	Moscow	-15	5	f	Strasb'rg	-1	30	c
Beirut	14	57	f	Helsinki	-6	21	sn	Munich	-2	28	f	Sydney	23	73	c
Belfast	4	39	f	Hong K	21	70	s	N Delhi	19	66	s	Tangier	13	55	f
Belgrade	0	32	s	Innsbrck	6	43	f	N York	5	41	f	Tel Aviv	16	61	s
Berlin	-6	21	s	Istanbul	-1	30	f	Nairobi	27	81	c	Tenerife	20	68	s
Bermuda	18	64	f	Jeddah	27	81	s	Naples	13	55	f	Tokyo	10	50	s
Biarritz	14	57	f	Jo'burg	21	70	c	Nice	12	54	r	Toronto	3	37	s
Borde'x	10	50	f	Karachi	25	77	f	Oslo	-5	23	sn	Tunis	18	64	s
Brussels	0	32	s	L Angels	12	54	f	Paris	5	41	r	Valencia	15	59	s
Budapst	-5	23	c	L Palmas	20	68	c	Peking	1	34	s	Vanc'ver	-1	30	sn
Cairo	18	64	f	Le Tquet	4	39	f	Perth	32	90	s	Venice	3	37	r
Cape Tn	21	70	c	Lisbon	10	50	f	Prague	-4	25	c	Vienna	-4	25	sn
Ch'church	24	75	X	Locarno	2	36	f	Reykjavik	0	32	sn	Warsaw	-7	19	s
Chicago	4	39	f	Luxembg	-3	27	c	Rhodes	13	55	s	Wash'ton	4	39	s
Cologne	-1	30	s	Luxor	21	70	s	Rio de J	34	93	s	Wel'ngton	21	70	X
Corfu	13	55	f	Madrid	8	46	f	Riyadh	12	54	c	Zurich	-1	30	c

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Low Y will drift east and lose its identity. Low Z will sink slowly south and fill. Low J will push northeast and gradually fill



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4.10	7.3	4.41	7.5	Leith	5.08	5.7	5.25	5.7
Aberdeen	3.53	4.4	3.56	4.5	Liverpool	1.36	9.8	1.56	10.0
Avonmouth	9.50	14.2	10.10	13.6	Lowestoft	-	-	12.19	2.4
Belfast	1.34	3.5	1.55	3.8	Margate	2.18	5.1	2.53	4.9
Cardiff	9.41	12.6	9.58	12.0	Milford Haven	8.46	7.4	9.10	7.0
Devonport	8.30	5.7	8.54	5.4	Newquay	7.35	7.1	7.58	6.6
Dover	1.17	7.0	1.42	6.7	Oban	8.10	4.1	8.20	3.7
Dublin (N Wall)	1.57	4.0	2.10	4.3	Penzance	7.08	5.9	7.30	5.5
Falmouth	7.54	5.4	8.18	4.9	Portland	9.23	2.3	9.45	2.0
Greenock	3.01	3.5	3.14	3.9	Portsmouth	1.49	5.0	2.05	4.8
Harwich	2.00	4.2	2.30	4.2	Shoreham	1.41	6.6	2.00	6.4
Holyhead	0.33	5.6	12.55	5.8	Southampton	1.07	4.8	1.22	4.7
Hull (Albert D)	8.52	7.6	8.57	8.0	Swansea	9.01	10.0	9.22	9.5
Ilfracombe	8.38	9.8	8.57	9.4	Tees	6.20	5.5	6.30	5.6
King's Lynn	8.40	6.8	8.58	7.1	Walton-on-Naze	1.54	4.4	2.25	4.4

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Sun rises: 7.51 am
Sun sets: 4.35 pm
Moon sets 10.11 pm
Moon rises 8.31 am

First quarter January 27

London 4.35 pm to 7.50 am
Bristol 4.45 pm to 7.59 am
Edinburgh 4.28 pm to 8.21 am
Manchester 4.35 pm to 8.06 am
Penzance 5.01 pm to 8.06 am

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24 1996

Barings administrators sue auditors for up to £1bn

By Patricia Tehan
Banking Correspondent

THE administrators of the holding company of Barings, the merchant bank that collapsed in February last year, have issued writs against the bank's auditors in the UK and in Singapore, and are claiming up to £1 billion in damages.

Nigel Hamilton, Alan Bloom and Maggie Mills, partners in the accountancy firm Ernst & Young and joint administrators of Barings, started proceedings in the High Court in London yesterday against Coopers & Lybrand in London and in Singapore and against Deloitte & Touche in Singapore.

The administrators refused to comment on the size of the claim for damages other than to say that it is "substantial", and that the precise amount would be the subject of expert opinion in due course.

They are believed to intend to to seek the expert opinion of merchant banks to find out how much Barings would have been worth if it had not been forced out of business. City estimates put this figure at up to £1 billion.

The claim is "in respect of alleged negligence in the conduct of audits for certain years between 1991 and 1994".

A spokesman for Coopers in London said the writ was a complete surprise. He said: "We have not been provided with the details of the claim. However, we are not aware of any grounds for any claim against us." He added that Coopers was not responsible for the collapse of Barings, which was "a result of management failures and fraud". The claim against the firm was "another example of suing the auditors because they are perceived to have deep pockets".

Po'ad Mattar, senior partner in Deloitte & Touche in Singapore, said: "The writ comes as a surprise. We are satisfied that the audits of Barings Futures Singapore in 1992 and 1993 were conducted with all required professional skill. We are also mystified by the claim since none of the activities that caused the failure of Barings and the consequential losses occurred while we were auditors. In any event, the writ will be successfully defended."

The administrators said that they had reviewed the position in respect of the auditors and had formed the view that proceedings should be brought on behalf of the Barings companies. The Barings businesses were sold to ING, the Dutch banking group, in March after ING received court approval for its offer to pay £1 for Baring Asset Management and to take over the assets, liabilities and management of Baring Brothers & Co bank and Baring Securities. It injected £660 million in cash into the businesses.

The Barings companies remain in administration. Creditors include bondholders owed £100 million who were not repaid by ING, and perpetual note holders owed another £100 million.

If the administrators are successful in their action, ING would be a subordinated creditor and, after ING, the Barings Foundation, Barings's main shareholder, would also rank.

In its report into the collapse of Barings, the Bank of England's board of banking supervision put the brunt of the blame for the collapse with Nick Leeson, the rogue trader who ran up losses in Singapore, and with a lack of management controls that allowed him to do so.

However, it also criticised and questioned the actions of both firms of auditors.

Granada set for great Forte sell-off

By Alasdair Murray

GRANADA will begin meetings today to decide the future of Forte's assets following the succesful £3.8 billion takeover bid.

The leisure and media company has already outlined details of its intention to sell off the upmarket Exclusive and Meridien hotel chains, along with what it terms Forte's "trophy" hotels, such as the Waldorf in London and the George V in Paris.

It will also dispose of Forte's 68 per cent stake in the Savoy Group and the Welcome Break chain of motorway cafes, which the company must sell to meet conditions laid down by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Granada, however, refused yesterday to reveal the names of potential buyers. Gerry Robinson, Granada chief executive, said: "We have had interest from around half a dozen potential buyers, but we cannot add any more at this stage."

Inquiries by *The Times* reveal that the demise of the Forte empire follows the refusal of Whitbread, led by Peter Jarvis, to join Sir Rocco Forte and his family in a potential £800 million defensive strategy.The plan devised by Sir Rocco and his advisers is understood to have involved significant market purchases of Forte shares, designed to effectively neutralise Mercury Asset Management's key 15 per cent holding.

Sir Rocco and his family are believed to have been prepared to commit close to £250 million to a share-buying operation, largely financed by lines of bank credit which were secretly put into place.

Whitbread, eager to clinch its proposed £1 billion purchase of Forte's restaurant and budget hotel operations, is understood to have initially responded positively to the Forte camp's proposals for a joint raid and is believed to have received an effective green light from the Takeover Panel.

Mr Jarvis and his co-directors, advised by Barings, are believed to have held a board meeting in the middle of last week to consider market purchases of anything up to 15 per cent of Forte's equity. Whitbread's deliberations are believed to have been influenced by Granada's stock market raid last Wednesday that netted Gerry Robinson's camp a 9.2 per cent stake, later raised to 9.9 per cent.

The Forte camp, which was prepared to acquire a 5 per cent stake, desperately required a partner with Whitbread's financial muscle. If the two parties had joined forces, a joint cash offer was contemplated for MAM's crucial share block. If Forte and Whitbread had acquired a 15 per cent stake, for an outlay of up to £570 million, it is highly questionable whether Granada would have succeeded. Several institutions accepted that the game was over yesterday after MAM announced its support for Granada.

Mr Jarvis was not available to comment yesterday. A spokesman for Whitbread said that the company was "disappointed that its purchase of the Forte roadside bsusinesses would not now go ahead." He added: "We gave it our best shot and convinced a lot of people about the industrial logic and that we had the best management case."

Mr Robinson did not, however, rule out Whitbread from posting a renewed offer for the Welcome Break business.

Granada secured victory after receiving acceptances from 67 per cent of shareholders before the offer period closed yesterday lunchtime.

Mr Robinson said: "Our job now is to take full advantage of the potential for the benefit of existing and new shareholders alike."

Hotels will now make up 24 per cent of the Granada group, while the restaurants will be included in the existing leisure and services divisions contributing 29 per cent of the group's revenue.

Mr Robinson said Granada's immediate priority was to meet with Forte board members and staff to discuss their future.

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How the deal was won 29

JAMES MORGAN

Winning smile: Gerry Robinson celebrates Granada's victory in the battle for Forte

Feared chief dictated outcome

By Patricia Tehan

MUCH as she loathes the publicity, Carol Galley, joint vice-chairman of Mercury Asset Management, has once again helped to dictate the outcome of a hostile and controversial bid.

Yesterday morning MAM signalled Forte's battle for independence was lost by indicating it had lodged its acceptance of the offer from Granada in relation to its 14.2 per cent Forte stake. The shareholding had risen from 12.5 per cent in November when the bid was launched. Though that was not enough to allow Granada to win the battle, where MAM leads other fund managers follow.

Ms Galley is respected and feared in the City by both colleagues and directors of firms in which MAM takes an interest. Aged 48 and a workaholic, she earned £861,000 last year including bonuses. She is married to a German broker, has no children and spends weekends at her home in France.

MAM has been a buyer of Granada shares since Mr Robinson arrived in 1991 and was known to admire his aggressive expansionist style. It has 14.8 per cent of Granada.

Ms Galley has had similar power in the past, notably when Granada made a £725 million hostile bid for London Weekend Television. MAM held 15 per cent of LWT — its vote helped Granada to win.

Call for pensions shake-up

By Robert Miller

A NEW two-tier pension system with compulsory contributions by individuals is one of a series of key recommendations in a report to be published today on how to ensure the retired have an adequate income.

The problem facing the UK, and many other countries, is that the number of people in work, and whose contributions support those in retirement, is falling dramatically while the costs are rising. At present, basic state retirement pensions to ten million people cost £26 billion a year. By 2030, that figure is forecast to be £42 billion.

The report, *Pensions: 2000 and Beyond*, estimates that, in 1991, 3.3 people were in work per pensioner, paying contributions towards state pensions on a pay-as-you-go basis. The figure is expected to fall to 1.6 by 2030 because of the number of people unemployed or not seeking work.

The Retirement Income Inquiry, chaired by Sir John Anson, a former Treasury second permanent secretary, concludes that all pensioners should be guaranteed a government-backed minimum income through a new Assured Pension, made up of the basic state pension and a company or occupational scheme, a personal plan or a new National Pensions Scheme. Pensioners whose total income was below the adequate minimum level would receive a state top-up payment.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3735.0	(-19.2)
Yield	3.82%	
FT-SE A All share	1827.22	(-7.29)
Nikkei	20080.92	(-115.61)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5195.52	(-23.84)*
S&P Composite	611.82	(-1.58)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 7/16%*	(5 7/16%)
Long Bond	111 1/8*	(111 11/32)
Yield	6.06%*	(6.05%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 7/32%	(6 9/32%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	111 17/32	(111 13/32)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5136*	(1.5123)
London:		
$	1.5137	(1.5125)
DM	2.2419	(2.2341)
FFr	7.6705	(7.6380)
SFr	1.8024	(1.7973)
Yen	160.18	(159.92)
£ Index	83.0	(82.9)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4811*	(1.4750)
FFr	5.0705*	(5.0473)
SFr	1.1910*	(1.1855)
Yen	105.80*	(105.75)
$ Index	96.0	(95.9)

Tokyo close Yen 105.65

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	$16.50	($16.50)

GOLD

London close	$402.90	($402.25)

* denotes midday trading price

Signal failure

Railtrack will be forced to pay out £59 million to train operators this year as compensation for delays to rail services caused by its track and signalling failures. The figure was revealed as Railtrack which is due to be privatised in a stock market flotation in May. Railtrack also announced its last set of audited accounts before its shares are offered to investors. **Page 26**

Unilever deal

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food and soap powder group, has paid £360 million for Diversey, a Toronto-based cleaning products business. It doubles Unilever's market share. **Page 27. Tempus 28**

Farnell buys US group for $2.8bn

By Philip Pangalos

FARNELL Electronics, the electronic components distributor, is buying Premier Industrial Corporation in a deal worth $2.8 billion.

Premier, of Cleveland, Ohio, is the fourth-largest US electronics component distributor and is 63 per cent controlled by the Mandel family. The deal will turn Farnell, which was capitalised at £926 million before the acquisition, into one of the world's largest components distributors.

Howard Poulson, Farnell's chief executive, said: "It fits remarkably well and provides an ideal platform for future expansion." Premier made pre-tax profits of £114 million in the year to May 31, on sales of £540 million. Farnell is paying a hefty 39 per cent premium for Premier in what it calls a "once in a lifetime" deal.

Farnell will fund the acquisition by paying £930 million in cash, with the balance split between ordinary and preference shares. Debt funding amounts to £580 million. Farnell is making a £349 million rights issue.

The deal, which is earnings dilutive in its first year, will allow Farnell to become a worldwide distributor of technical products. Up to $150 million is likely to be raised from the sale of non-core operations.

Morton Mandel, 74, Premier's chairman and youngest of the founder directors, will become deputy chairman of the enlarged group, to be called Premier Farnell. The company will have nearly 7,000 employees and listings in London and New York. The Mandel family will own 17 per cent of the new group, rising to 25 per cent on the conversion of preference shares.

Farnell forecasts pre-tax profits before exceptionals of at least £75 million in the year to January 31, and a final dividend of 6.2p.

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City Diary, page 29

Poulson: "ideal platform"

Clarke buoyant in face of CBI gloom

By Philip Bassett and Janet Bush

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, last night forecast improved economic growth, even though the latest survey of UK business showed manufacturing activity to be sluggish with industry's new orders now falling.

Mr Clarke vigorously defended his optimistic Budget forecasts for this year. In a speech to the British American Chamber of Commerce, he predicted that consumers would lead the recovery this year, their confidence and spending power bolstered by tax cuts, low interest rates, pay increases, building society payouts, maturing Tessas and the electricity rebate. He defended his forecast of a 3.5 per cent rise in consumer spending and said the climate for investment had rarely been better.

His remarks came after the Confederation of British Industry's latest quarterly industrial trends survey showed that manufacturing industry is stalling as export order growth slackens off.

☐ Total orders fell for the first time since January 1993, with a balance of 1 per cent of companies — those recording a fall set against those registering a rise — saying that orders were declining. Domestic orders fell for the second successive quarter, from minus 3 to minus 6 per cent.

☐ The survey showed export orders growing much less rapidly, dropping back from a balance of 11 to 4 per cent, the slowest rate since a fall in exports in October 1993.

☐ Manufacturing output growth moderated marginally, from 7 to 6 per cent, the slowest rate since October 1993.

☐ Employment fell at the sharpest rate since July 1994. The balance of companies reporting job growth dropped from 3 to minus 11 per cent.

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Customers the winners in phone war

By Ross Tieman
Industrial Correspondent

BREAKING BT's monopoly over provision of telephone services in Britain has resulted in big improvements in standards of service, Don Cruickshank, the telecommunications regulator said.

The first studies of service standards offered to both domestic and business customers, published by Oftel yesterday, show BT compares favourably with its cable company rivals, but is often bettered by Kingston Communications, the company which by historical accident provides the dominant telephone service in Hull.

BT's chief domestic rival, Mercury, fared badly, but its performance is absent from many of the tables since it was apparently unable to provide the necessary information.

Mr Cruickshank said the findings showed UK customers can expect "world class" levels of service. "Comparisons with statistics on BT's performance pre-privatisation and later in the 1980s show customers are benefiting from significantly improved services."

But Mercury came bottom on three out of the four indicators for which it was able to supply information. The company, a subsidiary of Cable and Wireless, was only able to provide services to switched business customers by the promised date in 71 per cent of cases, compared with BT's 98 per cent. For dedicated business customers, Mercury's figure was 81 per cent, compared with BT's 98 per cent.

The company also came bottom of the table showing the percentage of complaints made by business subscribers that it managed to handle within 20 working days, with 75 per cent, compared with BT's 96 per cent.

But Mercury fared well when it came to bill accuracy, with only 0.2 complaints per 1,000 bills — the second best figure — compared with BT's 1.2.

Five cable television companies that also provide telephone services were included in the domestic subscriber survey — Bell CableMedia, Comcast, General Cable, Nynex and TeleWest.

Oftel has begun discussions aimed at persuading mobile phone operators to publish similar data on standards of service. Meanwhile, operators of wired networks have agreed to conduct customer satisfaction surveys, which Oftel will publish after Easter.

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AT&T calls for deregulation in battle with BT

By Ross Tieman, industrial correspondent

AT&T, the world's second-biggest phone company, aims to build a $1 billion dollar business in Britain within five years, serving business and domestic customers, Robert Allen, the chairman, said.

But progress towards that goal would be inhibited unless there was further deregulation to create a "level playing field" between BT and its rivals, he added.

"Our success in the UK will depend upon our ability to meet our customers needs," he said at the launch of the company's services to business. "If the regulations are not right, we are not going to be as successful."

Mr Allen said it was essential that Oftel carried through its plan to alter BT's licence in a way that would ban anti-competitive behaviour. A formal response from BT on that issue is expected on February 2.

The AT&T chairman also claimed that customers would be discouraged from switching to AT&T unless Oftel guaranteed that customers could change phone company without changing their number, and unless they could use the AT&T network without dialling a three-digit access code, as they must at present.

Britain is the first country outside America where AT&T has sought to develop a full business and domestic network. The move is made possible by Britain's liberal telecoms regime, which, he said, was more open to competition than any in the world.

Competition from AT&T, which, with annual revenues of almost $80 billion, is second only to NTT of Japan in size, is perceived as a significant threat by BT. Although the former state monopoly still carries an overwhelming majority of personal calls, it faces a growing challenge to its lucrative business market, while mobile phones are also becoming increasingly popular with consumers.

The American phone company said that it would concentrate initially on wooing business from large, multinational companies.

In particular, it will target retailers, firms offering professional services, financial services and those manufacturers that relied heavily upon telephones and paid large bills.

The company has assembled three switching centres, in London, Manchester and Edinburgh. Telephone lines will be leased from other companies that have high-quality capacity to spare. AT&T declined to reveal how much has been invested in its UK network, but said it had taken on more than 400 employees in Britain and planned to focus on offering a high-quality service, without being the cheapest.

Mr Allen said AT&T's plan to split itself into three businesses by the year end, announced last September, was on track. An initial public offering of shares in AT&T's soon-to-be-renamed systems and technology business, which makes a full range of telephones and exchange equipment, is expected at the end of the third quarter, he said.

Spinning off NCR, the computers and retail systems business, would be completed by the year end, leaving AT&T as a core telephone company, devoted to building the ability to offer services to customers around the world.

Railtrack must pay £59m for hold-ups

By Jonathan Prynn, transport correspondent

RAILTRACK will be forced to pay out £59 million to train operators this year as compensation for delays to rail services caused by its track and signalling failures.

The figure was revealed as Railtrack, due to be privatised in a stock market flotation in May, announced its last set of audited accounts before its shares are offered to investors.

The performance regime put in place by the Government heavily penalises Railtrack at an average rate of about £25 per minute if it is identified as responsible for holding up trains.

The timing of every train on the rail network is now recorded by 1,300 electronic clocks and any slippage in the timetable beyond three minutes is immediately investigated and officially "blamed" on the rail organisation responsible.

Train operators are entitled to compensation from Railtrack if the average delays in their services caused by infrastructure failures over a 28-day period is greater than an agreed trigger level.

However, Railtrack has negotiated a £53 million rebate against performance failures in its first year of privatisation, so its net loss will be only £5 million. The compensation falls to £10 million by 2001.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30, last year, were £98 million compared with £189 million for the previous 13 months. Turnover was £1.14 billion (£2.28 billion) of which track, station and depot access charges from train operators contributed about £1 billion.

Bob Horton, Railtrack chairman, said the figures represented an "encouraging" performance in the run-up to privatisation. Norman Broadhurst, finance director, said he expected operating profits for the full year to be "pretty similar" to the £305 million last year.

The £200 million impact of the 1994 signal-workers' strike and privatisation costs in the last financial year are likely to be offset by the rail regulator's ruling that access charges must be reduced by 8 per cent in real terms and a fall in freight income, he added.

The company, which has fixed assets of £4.4 billion, is expected to be valued at about £1.8 billion, placing it just outside the FT-SE 100 group of leading companies. "An enormous amount of effort has continued to be put into achieving a smooth operational reorganisation and preparing for our proposed flotation," said Mr Horton.

"I'm completely confident that continued progress in meeting service expectations and in further improving efficiency, reliability and safety will be reflected in the future results of Railtrack."

Bob Horton is confident that continued progress in efficiency, reliability and safety will be shown in results

Wrangle on nuclear clean-up

By Christine Buckley

BRITISH ENERGY and the Government are at odds over the level of liability for decommissioning that should be passed on after privatisation of the nuclear industry.

Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the stockbroker advising the Government over the sell-off, yesterday told the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee that the two sides were not yet in full agreement about the allocation of liabilities.

Martin O'Neill, the committee chairman, raised the fear that the taxpayer risked a £1 billion clean-up bill if the privatised industry ran into difficulties in meeting decommissioning obligations. He said that the Government had pledged £1 billion to the industry in the event of problems. Sir Peter Middleton, chairman of BZW, agreed that the provision existed, but said that it had not been accounted for in valuation work on British Energy, forecast to be sold for about £2.5 billion.

BZW representatives would not be drawn on a valuation for the industry.

British Energy will put up to £50 million a year into a fund to pay decommissioning costs that will stretch over 120 years. That will be backed by the Government's provision.

Ofgas keeps pressure up over date of pilot project

By Our Industrial Correspondent

CLARE SPOTTISWOODE, the gas industry regulator, is to review preparations for opening the household gas market in the South West to competition in a fortnight after industry leaders failed to agree yesterday on the need to delay the April 1 start date.

But despite pleas from the British Gas pipeline company, TransCo, for the pilot to be delayed until June 1, Ms Spottiswoode said the industry would continue to aim for the start of April.

"April 1 is a challenging target for all concerned, but I did not hear anything today to convince me that it cannot be achieved," she said. "We shall continue to review the position." She hopes that by postponing any decision to delay the trial until the last moment, if a delay does become necessary, she can keep it to a minimum. Ms Spottiswoode was speaking after chairing a meeting at Ofgas's London headquarters attended by officials from Ofgas, the Department of Trade and Industry, British Gas and the shippers, many of them owned by oil and gas producers or electricity companies that want to compete with British Gas. TransCo said it continued to believe that a two-month delay was necessary. Harry Moulson, managing director, said this was to ensure that complex computer systems needed to use the TransCo system will operate effectively.

Ms Spottiswoode said that testing by TransCo had been "encouraging" and that Chris Rees, a senior partner at Touche Ross, the consultants advising Ofgas, had devised checks to to decide whether new gas suppliers had adequate systems to handle the large numbers of people expected to switch supplier.

Some 500,000 householders in Somerset, Devon and Cornwall will be allowed to switch when the pilot project starts.

Spottiswoode: unconvinced

Interest grows for Midlands

By Christine Buckley

MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY, the bid for which by PowerGen was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, says other companies are eyeing it for a takeover.

Market rumour has, for weeks, spoken of Tractebel, the Belgian utility, as interested in Midlands, which had a £1.9 billion price put on it by PowerGen. Much speculation surrounds US utilities, which have shown strong interest in UK electricity companies.

Midlands has told the Stock Exchange that it has received more than one approach in response to a recent rise in its share price. However, it said that there was no immediate prospect of an offer.

The MMC is due to report by the end of March on bids by PowerGen and National Power for regional electricity companies.

Lenders unmoved as borrowing falls

By Patricia Tehan and Janet Bush

MORTGAGE lending fell last month as house moves were put on hold in the run-up to Christmas, according to figures from the Building Societies' Association.

Gross mortgage lending was £2.87 billion compared with £2.95 billion in November. Net advances, which exclude remortgages and capital repayments, fell to £485 million from £865 million, one of the lowest in recent years but above October's £295 million low. Net new mortgage commitments were £2.42 billion, down from £3.2 billion in November.

Analysts said the fall was not surprising and did not change their forecasts of an improvement in the market. They had been predicting a December fall to about £2.6 billion. Adrian Coles, BSA director-general, said the figure compared favourably with the £2.45 billion of December 1994. In the savings market, building societies saw another retail outflow in December of £62 million against £47 million in November.

Bank mortgage lending rose by £554 million in December, compared with an increase of £686 million in November, according to British Bankers' Association figures. Total bank lending to the private sector increased by £2.87 billion last month, up on November's £975 million.

M4 money supply rose by 1 per cent in December, pushing its annual growth rate up to 10 per cent from 9.3 per cent. This is even further above the Government's 3 to 9 per cent monitoring range and in double digits for the first time since February 1991.

The figures will continue to worry the Bank of England which cites above-target M4 growth as a reason for caution on cutting interest rates.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Dutch Parliament to debate Fokker

THE Dutch Parliament will today hold an emergency debate on the future of Fokker, the regional aircraft builder facing collapse after Daimler-Benz, its German parent, ended financial support. Ministers are expected to agree bridging loan facilities for several months to enable the viable parts of Fokker, including defence manufacturing and aircraft maintenance, to be rescued. But prospects for regional aircraft assembly, which employs about half the company's 7,900 employees, appear bleak.

Fokker directors met again last night to discuss seeking protection from creditors. The shares remain suspended. The Dutch Cabinet met to consider whether to provide the four million guilders (£1.6 million) that Fokker is estimated to need each day to stay afloat. On Monday, Daimler-Benz withdrew support for Fokker, taking DM2.3 billion (£1.03 billion) of provisions. The Dutch government refused to contribute 1.3 billion guilders to a restructuring plan.

BREM wins £50m fund

KINGFISHER, the retailing group, has appointed Barr Rosenberg European Management (BREM) to manage the £50 million UK equity portfolio of its pension scheme. The fund manager, which said that its appointment was a "very significant" one, has been briefed to outperform the FTA all-share index. Jennie Paterson, of BREM, said: "We have been managing UK equities as part of a pan-European portfolio since January 1993, but this is our first segregated UK equity portfolio."

Optimism at Colefax

COLEFAX AND FOWLER, the home furnishings supplier, said it has seen little change in the difficult market conditions but feels optimistic about future prospects, which would be enhanced by increased marketing efforts and operational efficiencies. In the half-year to October 31, C&F lifted pre-tax profits to £694,000 from £627,000 on turnover that was almost unchanged at £17.9 million (£17.76 million). Earnings were 2.2p a share, compared with 1.98p. The interim dividend is increased to 0.75p a share from 0.7p, payable April 10.

SeaPerfect suspended

SHARES in SeaPerfect were suspended at 75p yesterday after the shellfish company said that it had failed to secure adequate facilities from banks in Chile, where its operations are located, to meet its working capital requirements. The company said that, in spite of reductions in the workforce and cutbacks in capital investment, further funds would be required to secure its long-term future. The shares were placed on the stock market at 120p each in November 1994.

Woolwich purchase

THE Woolwich Building Society, which announced £3 billion flotation plans two weeks ago, has doubled the size of its mortgage book in France to £1.5 billion with the acquisition of Midland Bank's residential mortgage book. Peter Robinson, Woolwich chief executive, said that the move was part of the society's intention to expand through selective acquisitions. He said: "Banque Woolwich represents a valuable, diversified source of mortgage business at a time when the UK mortgage market is intensely competitive."

New chief at the FT

PEARSON, the publishing and media group, has announced further management changes, including the appointment of Stephen Hill to succeed John Makinson as chief executive of the *Financial Times* newspaper. Mr Hill was previously head of Westminster Press, where he is succeeded by Will Gibson. Mr Makinson was named group finance director in December after James Joll said he would step down in April. Greg Dyke, chairman and chief executive of Pearson Television, also joined the board in December.

Domino falls to £5.2m

DOMINO PRINTING SERVICES, the printing equipment company, suffered a sharp fall in pre-tax profits to £5.2 million from £13 million in the year to October 31, affected by serious technical problems that disrupted trading. The direct cost of resolving the problems and supporting customers was almost £4 million, while the loss of sales resulted in a net margin reduction of £3 million. Profits were just £500,000 in the second half. The final dividend is maintained at 6.4p a share, payable April 10, making 10.1p a share (9.6p).

Shandwick pegs payout

SHANDWICK, the international public relations company, is holding the total dividend at 1.3p a share, with a 0.87p final payable on April 18. In the year to October 31, pre-tax profit fell to £2.5 million from £7.3 million. Results were affected by a net exceptional charge of £5.2 million, mainly comprising a £4.8 million goodwill write-off arising from disposals. Profits before exceptionals were £7.7 million (£7.3 million). As a result of the exceptional charges, earnings were reduced to 1.7p a share (4.5p). The shares eased to 41½p from 44½p.

DAEJAN HOLDINGS
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INTERIM STATEMENT

Results for the half year ended 30 September 1995 – unaudited

	6 months to 30.9.95 £'000	6 months to 30.9.94 £'000
Net Rental Income	11,179	9,938
Surplus on Sale of Trading Properties	1,934	4,496
Other Income	45	(20)
	13,158	14,414
Administration & Other Expenses	(2,119)	(2,229)
Operating Profit from Continuing Operations	11,039	12,185
Surplus on Sale of Investment Properties	518	766
Net Interest Payable	(1,139)	(1,833)
Profit on Ordinary Activities before Taxation	10,418	11,118
Less: Taxation	(3,410)	(3,600)
Minority Interests	(22)	(13)
Profit attributable to shareholders	£6,986	£7,505
Earnings Per Share	42.9p	46.0p

The results for the half year ended 30 September 1994 and 30 September 1995 have been prepared under FRS3.

An Interim Dividend of 15p per share (1995 – 12p) will be paid on 14 March 1996 to shareholders registered on 6 February 1996. This dividend will absorb £2,607,000 (1995 – £1,955,000).

The full year's profit is expected to reflect the materially lower level of residential sales evident in the above Statement, which is as anticipated in last year's Chairman's Statement.

The Directors' current intention is to, at least, maintain the overall dividend for the full year at last year's level and the increase in the Interim Dividend has been made solely, in order to equalize the Interim and Final Dividends.

The financial information included in this document does not comprise statutory accounts within the meaning of Section 240 of the Companies Act 1985. The statutory accounts for the year to 31 March 1995, on which the auditors have given an unqualified opinion, have been filed with the Registrar of Companies. The interim financial information is unaudited.

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Canada $	2.180	2.020
Cyprus Cyp£	0.747	0.692
Denmark Kr	9.25	8.45
Finland Mkk	7.43	6.78
France Fr	8.08	7.41
Germany Dm	2.39	2.18
Greece Dr	389.00	364.00
Hong Kong $	12.36	11.36
Ireland Pt	1.01	0.93
Israel Shk	5.1300	4.4800
Italy Lira	2518.00	2363.00
Japan Yen	174.20	158.20
Malta	0.587	0.532
Netherlds Gld	2.654	2.424
New Zealand $	2.44	2.22
Norway Kr	10.38	9.58
Portugal Esc	242.50	224.00
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.28
Spain Pta	195.50	182.50
Sweden Kr	11.05	10.26
Switzerland Fr	1.93	1.75
Turkey Lira	refer	89122.0
USA $	1.612	1.482

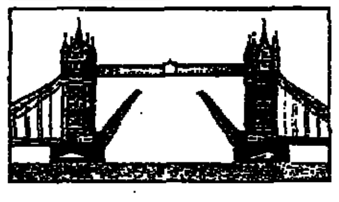
Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

صورة من الأصل

☐ Awaiting the cost of Granada's success ☐ Railtrack's strategy on the way to market ☐ CBI accentuates the positive

Life ends at Forte

PENNINGTON



☐ TO THE victor, the spoils. To the mercenaries who helped in that victory, an as-yet unmeasured reckoning.

One does not have to be too ardent an admirer of Sir Rocco to feel some unease at Granada's success. But first, consider why he lost. This column has pointed out that the Savoy group, far from holding some unassailable position in the cultural life of the nation, is nothing more than a collection of good hotels.

How much truer this is of Forte, containing some London trophies, the Meridien chain, some mid-market hotels and Little Chef and Happy Eater.

The Savoyards, in their battle with Sir Rocco's father, used that accumulated cultural baggage to its full, hoping to deprive a mere restaurateur of control of their precious hotels. Their contempt was mirrored during Forte's defiance of Granada — a business led by a "mere caterer".

Much of the blame for the Forte defeat rests with Sir Rocco. Like Louis XIV, he declared: "L'état, c'est moi!" Like Louis's descendants, he paid the price for ignoring the demands of the mob. His own advisers admitted privately that change had in the past been too gradual. The mob of disappointed and disaffected fund managers did not believe their claims for the future.

Sir Rocco made two mistakes. He did not tell the City well before the bid that he might concentrate on Meridien, and show a real will to sell the trophies — indeed, he did not tell the City enough, full stop. He also failed to bring in outside management, which would have defused the whisper that he was not the match of his father.

Gerry Robinson now has to carry out those disposals. But consider this possibility. If Granada keeps most of the hotels, the interest bill in the next full year would swallow a quarter of the profits. This is not comfortable, but it is not crucifying either — indeed, Granada has been there before, and the business is a huge generator of cash.

Mr Robinson's first plan, before the higher bid, was to keep the hotels. Most experts say that that industry has another couple of years at least before the next cyclical downturn. It is not inconceivable that he may change his mind again.

For the City, Granada's success is business as usual. Only failure would have changed the rules, by putting a cap on bid expectations and so sending prices downwards, especially if Forte had been aided by an institution as powerful as MAM. This is probably one reason why MAM was always going to support Granada.

But however many more mega-bids there are before any new government pulls down the shutters, Granada/Forte does represent some sort of watershed. It attracted unusually strong interest outside the City, and those observers probably did not much like the behaviour of that mob of institutions. Their attention may yet be translated into political measures to limit big, highly-leveraged takeovers.

Leaves on the line

☐ HOW appropriate of Railtrack to choose the worst day for industrial trouble since its new performance regime was put into place six weeks ago to announce the latest whistle-stop on the line to flotation.

The non-appearance of half the trains in Kent yesterday morning will not hurt Railtrack's revenues, which are based on take-or-pay contracts with the train operating companies. Instead, the fines for the late-running of trains will be passed on direct to the latter.

That arrangement is a measure of how the company is being buffed up on its way to the market, as is the neat and largely unmarked property deal struck last week whereby Railtrack can keep three quarters of the profits on its extensive portfolio.

These give a fair idea of how its advisers are going to market Railtrack this spring, as a risk-free utility with a built-in premium from its property assets, a sort of National Grid crossed with BAA. The question remains whether this will be enough to overcome the potentially disastrous political risk.

As yet unsettled, and likely to be taken right to the last moment if the Treasury follows its normal pattern, is capital structure. Talks over the next few months will decide where debt falls between a low of £500 million to a high of £800 million favoured by Treasury hawks, against a total worth of £1.5 billion.

New Labour is still running shy of outright renationalisation, but a letter in November from Brian Wilson, the party's deputy on transport, made it clear to the operators that their lives would be made as difficult as possible under a Labour government, up to the point where high service standards imposed might deprive them of any profits.

Much the same might be said to Railtrack, if the party could only work out some coherent policy over this privatisation. But the company will have to be priced to sell, if only because the Government cannot contemplate a pre-election disaster. The pricing may require a forward yield somewhat better than the 6.5 per cent the Grid now enjoys, property benefits for Railtrack notwithstanding, before the "Sids with a degree", at whom the float will be targetted, are on board.

The reliability of hindsight

☐ WHEN Ken Clarke and Eddie George met last week, they had already been briefed privately on the CBI's latest industrial trends survey, published to everyone else yesterday. Small wonder that they cut base rates.

CBI leaders yesterday chose to be "positive" about the latest survey, saying manufacturing neither is nor looks likely to be heading for another recession. But the CBI's optimism is based largely on the survey's forward indicators of manufacturers' output and other expectations.

These indicators, though, have proved not just recently but over a longer period of time to be less reliable than the survey's backward-looking hard numbers, with companies' expectations mostly not being met.

To judge from what firms have recorded, rather than what they would like to see, manufacturing industry is clearly feeling queasy. Domestic orders fell again and export prospects are worsening. The two combined mean that total orders are now falling — or are "flat", as the CBI would have it. At the same time, destocking is under way, output growth is slowing, jobs are still going and confidence still slipping.

Business is not yet pressing for a further rate cut, though some harder-hit and mainly domestic sectors such as construction want one. But the Chancellor and the Governor will be hoping for better things in three months, when they are slipped an early copy of the next full CBI survey.

De profundis

☐ THE ever-generous Eurocrats, as well as helping out Viennese prostitutes and the London homeless, are funding an innovative scheme in Antwerp. This will allow older men to be reintegrated into urban life, and I am not making this up, "by repairing wheelchairs and bicycles". Clearly not something that could ever be dealt with by national governments under the subsidiarity clause. But after the Forte decision, can such aid to those ostracised and on the margins of civilised society be denied to City fund managers?

Unilever makes £360m Canadian acquisition

By Sarah Bagnall

UNILEVER, the international food and soap powder group, has become the second-largest player in the non-domestic detergents market with the acquisition of Diversey, a Canadian business, for C$780 million (£360 million).

The Anglo-Dutch group has acquired the Toronto-based business from The Molson Companies in a move that doubles Unilever's share of the world industrial and institutional cleaning products business to 14 per cent. Henkel-Ecolab, a German company, is the market leader, with a 16 per cent share of the £7.4 billion world market.

The cleaning products are used by companies such as food manufacturers to clean machinery and by institutions, such as hospitals and hotels. Diversey is particularly strong in the food and drink industries, which Unilever has only a limited presence through Lever Industrial International. The company said that Diversey was "highly complementary" with Lever Industrial International, which mainly services the floor care, laundry and institutional sectors.

On a geographical basis, Diversey has a strong presence in North America, Europe, Japan and emerging markets. Unilever said: "The emerging markets are showing the fastest growth and we think these are areas where we should invest heavily."

Unilever last week expanded its industrial detergents operations in China through a partnership with the Weiss group of companies, based in Hong Kong.

Unilever said that the acquisition provided synergies and that the combined businesses "are expected to achieve significant profitable growth".

David Lang, an analyst with Henderson Crosthwaite, said that the acquisition was at a good price and put Unilever in a much stronger position from which to grow its detergents business.

The Molson Companies has retained a metal finishing business, a water treatment business and its US institutional and laundry business. The Diversey businesses acquired by Unilever have 8,200 employees, of whom 500 are in the UK, and 40 manufacturing sites spread around the world. It made a net operating profit before amortisation of goodwill of £34 million on sales of £507 million in the year to March 31 1995. At September 30, net assets stood at £184 million. Unilever Industrial International, which employs 4,000 people worldwide, has annual sales of £490 million.

Unilever, of which Niall FitzGerald is to take over as UK chairman in August, is due to report its results for the year to December 1995 on February 20. Analysts are forecasting pre-tax profits of about £2.5 billion, up from £2.36 billion last time. The shares fell 2p, to £13.63.

Tempus, page 28

Canada to compensate Westland

THE Canadian Government has agreed to pay compensation of C$158 million (£77 million) to Westland Helicopters, of Yeovil, and Agusta, its Italian partner, after cancelling a £2.8 billion contract to supply 50 maritime helicopters (Ross Tieman writes).

The cash will be shared equally between Westland, owned by GKN, the defence to pallet-hire group, and its Italian partner in the development and production of the EH101 long-range helicopter.

A Westland spokesman said that most of the half share which Westland will receive would offset costs incurred on the contract. But there would be an £8 million surplus, to be taken in the accounts for the year ending December 1995.

Berkeley makes £73m cash call

By Philip Pangalos

BERKELEY GROUP, the specialist housebuilder, is looking to take advantage of the shakeout in a depressed housing market and has launched a £73.1 million rights issue to help it to expand its land development and to pay off debts. The rights issue, underwritten by SBC Warburg, is on a two-for-nine basis, and is priced at 435p a share. Berkeley shares eased 5p to 504p. The proceeds will eliminate Berkeley's £16.8 million borrowings and allow it to react quickly to opportunities to buy quality land and development schemes. Berkeley, which operates from 14 regional companies from the South to the Midlands and the North West, said these opportunities tend to occur when the housing market has been quiet.

Tony Pidgley, chief executive, is positive on Berkeley's prospects in spite of the harsh conditions in much of the country and said now is the right time to expand, "both organically and possibly through modest acquisition".

On current trading, Mr Pidgley said that while December was quiet, January has started positively and he expects improved trading this year. Since the half year ended on October 31, Berkeley has made purchases or commitments on 53 sites involving 913 units at a cost of £43 million.

Mr Pidgley said: "The housing market is showing very clear signs of recovery. We've had a very strong January and we're seeing growth across the market. I think there are some wonderful opportunities out there for a specialist housebuilder like us."

Tempus, page 28

Electricity customers face charge

ELECTRICITY customers are likely to face a £1 per year surcharge on their bills to fund competition in supply after the regulator criticised the electricity pool and pressed the industry to gear up for the competitive market in 1998 (Christine Buckley writes).

Stephen Littlechild dismissed proposals from the electricity pool for implementation of competition that would have cost the electricity companies £320 million and which threatened to spark rebellion from some suppliers. He said that estimates from the pool were neither "reasonable nor necessary".

Professor Littlechild said development costs should exceed £50 million with operating costs at £15 million per year.

David Barnes, chief executive, has had to contend with increased takeover speculation

Zeneca slips despite high profits forecast

By George Sivell

SHARES in Zeneca dipped 14p to £12.85 even though the pharmaceutical, speciality chemicals and seeds group said its results for 1995 would be at the upper end of market expectations. However, Zeneca said that the charge for restructuring of manufacturing and distribution of the pharmaceuticals business would amount to £60 million.

Pre-tax profits forecasts range from £850 million to £875 million for the year to December 31. The results are due on March 7. The share price fall was blamed by analysts on a hangover from the launch by BZW on Monday of 15 million American-style warrants in Zeneca.

Zeneca was floated off from ICI in June 1993 and has been the subject of much takeover speculation.

Analysts said the trading statement was positive on the pharmaceuticals division but was disappointing for speciality chemicals and seeds. Some said they were tempted to take profits on their Zeneca shares after the recent wave of takeover speculation.

Zeneca said that for agrochemicals, the rate of profit growth for the year is expected to be marginally ahead of the rate in the first half of 1995, but the overall result for the sector will be muted by a poorer seeds performance.

In speciality chemicals, sales showed similar growth to that reported at the half-year. Textile colours continued to experience competitive trading conditions, but the effects chemicals businesses maintained their recent good performance. Sales of Quorn, the artificial protein, continued to grow strongly, but continued downward pressure on sales prices and increases in raw materials costs mean profits in the division are expected to be similar to those of 1994.

Price cut at Euro Disney trims loss

By Our City Staff

EURO DISNEY, the theme park near Paris, almost halved its first-quarter losses after attracting more visitors.

A net loss of Fr57 million for the three months to December 31 compared with a loss of Fr109 million in the first quarter a year earlier.

The company, which is 39 per cent owned by Walt Disney, said operating revenues at the theme park were Fr1 billion, compared with Fr854 million. It said revenue growth was driven by a strong rise in park attendance and hotel occupancy, due in part to the lower park entry prices from last April.

Losses were reduced in spite of an increase of Fr37 million in lease and financial charges due mostly to the company's financial restructuring.

The company reported its first annual profit last November, of Fr114 million, against a Fr1.8 billion loss in the previous 12 months when fears of an imminent closure kept visitors away. It also reported a profit for the final two quarters of the 1994-95 financial year.

Analysts said the results were slightly better than expected, reflecting the success of the strategy of price cuts, which has drawn an increasing number of visitors in recent months.

Nigel Reed, analyst with Paribas Capital Markets in London, said: "It's still a loss, but sales revenue growth of 17 per cent is better than I expected. It shows that the strategy of cutting admission prices is continuing to pay off as visitors see better value."

Alldays to expand

By Martin Barrow

WATSON & PHILIP, the food distribution and retailing group, plans to add 100 outlets to Alldays, its convenience stores chain, to increase the network to more than 550 stores nationally this year.

Yesterday W&P reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £18.5 million, from £10.6 million, in the year to October 29, helped by a 52 per cent increase in operating profit at Alldays to £12.2 million. A total of 102 outlets were added to Alldays during the year. Food services lifted operating profits 49 per cent to £3.4 million.

Earnings rose to 32.6p a share from 27.9p. There is a final dividend of 11.5p a share, making a total of 16.5p (15.3p).

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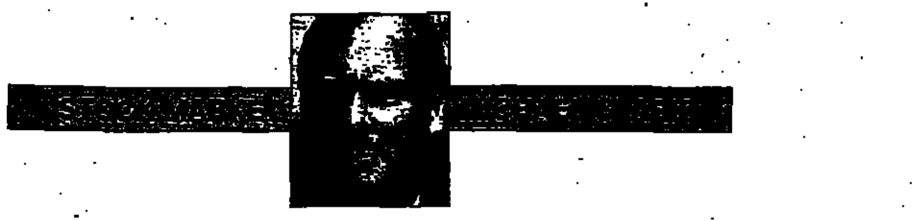


Speculators still in the grip of takeover fever

Shares were halted in SeaPerfect, the shellfish farmer

THE battle for control of Forte may be all over bar the shouting, but there seems to be no shortage of takeover speculation inside the Square Mile to tantalize investors.

Having enjoyed a profitable outcome to Granada's bid for Forte, City speculators are already searching for the next takeover target. High on their list is **Midlands Electricity**, which yesterday confirmed it had received a *number of* approaches since the lapsing of the offer from PowerGen.

One company strongly tipped to make a move is Tractebel, the French utilities group. *Midlands has ruled* out any early prospect of an offer being made, but the share price still enjoyed a hike of 10p to 368p.

Ladbroke, up 2p at 164p, is another for which *speculation* refuses to subside. The shares are currently trading 20p short of their 12-month high of 186p on persistent talk of a bid from Bass, the brewer which owns the Holiday Inn chain of hotels.

Further talk of a possible counter-bid lifted **Lloyds Chemists** another 6p to 426p. The group is the subject of an *offer from* **UniChem**, *down 7p* at 246p. Whispers in the marketplace claim that Gehe, the German pharmaceutical distributor, may be poised to make an offer.

But news of charges totalling £60 million took some of the steam out of recent takeover favourite **Zeneca** as the price dipped 14p to £12.85.

Share prices generally *staged a drab performance* despite a positive overnight performance on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones industrial average climbed more than 30 points. But with the Dow reversing *that lead in early* trading yesterday, share prices in London saw their losses extended towards the close. The FT-SE 100 Index finished near its low for the day, down 19.2 at 3,735.0.

A total of 736 million shares were traded, bolstered by heavy turnover in Forte as the bid went unconditional after Mercury Asset Management confirmed market speculation by committing its 15 per cent holding to Granada.

Forte finished 11p higher at 384p after Granada claimed acceptances totalling 66.68 per cent as more than 33 million Forte shares changed hands. **Granada** dropped 18p to 678p.

One company that has lost out on a Granada victory is **Whitbread**, 4p cheaper at 684p. It had agreed to pay £1.1 billion for Forte's roadside operations, including Happy *Eater and Travelodge.*

Guinness rose 11p to 484p on talk of a buy recommendation from Morgan Stanley, the US securities house, and **Rexam** bounced back with a *rise of 10p to 379p after a line* that had been overhanging the market was cleared.

Farnell Electronics returned from suspension 62p down at 617p, having announced details of the proposed £1.85 billion acquisition of Premier, America's fourth *biggest electronic components* distribution group. To help finance the deal, Farnell is raising £349 million by way of a nine-for-19 rights issue at 540p. The acquisition of Premier will effectively treble the size of Farnell, currently capitalised at £925 million. The rest of the deal will be met *by an issue of ordinary* and preference shares.

Farnell has also forecast a 21 per cent hike in full-year pre-tax profits to £75 million, but Howard Poulson, chief executive, *admitted the purchase* would result in earnings dilution during the first year and *debts of at least £450 million.*

Another company asking shareholders to dig deep into their pockets is **Berkeley Group**, the housebuilder. It is raising £73.1 million by way of *a two-for-nine at 435p.* The group wants the money to take advantage of depressed conditions to increase its land bank and reduce debt. The shares responded with a fall of just 5p to 504p.

The decision of Daimler Benz to withdraw financial support from Fokker, its loss-making Dutch subsidiary, has been badly received by *Britain's aircraft manufacturers.*

Rolls-Royce shares slipped 3p to 194½p, and **British Aerospace** 15p to 873p. But there was support for **Smiths Industries**, up 9p at 662p, *which is expected to benefit* from a contract placed by GE Capital Aviation, the aircraft leasing arm of General Electric. It has ordered 107 airliners from Boeing in a deal *worth around* £2.6 billion.

An increase in the dividend despite a 60 per cent drop in pre-tax profits last year to £5.2 million enabled **Domino Printing** to sport a 5p rise to *409p. The group blamed problems* with printing ink supplies and technical troubles.

An encouraging trading statement lifted **EuroDisney** 4p to 154p. Operating *revenues* grew 17 per cent during the first quarter, with attendance levels and hotel occupancies both higher.

Shares in **SeaPerfect**, the shellfish farmer, were *suspended at 71p pending* clarification of the company's financial position. The group is suffering from cash shortage after the failure to negotiate fresh finance with a number of Chilean banks.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** The latest money supply figures failed to impress the bond market and paved the way for opening losses. Prices rallied later but *there was little enthusiasm* to chase prices higher and the market was left nursing small falls on the day.

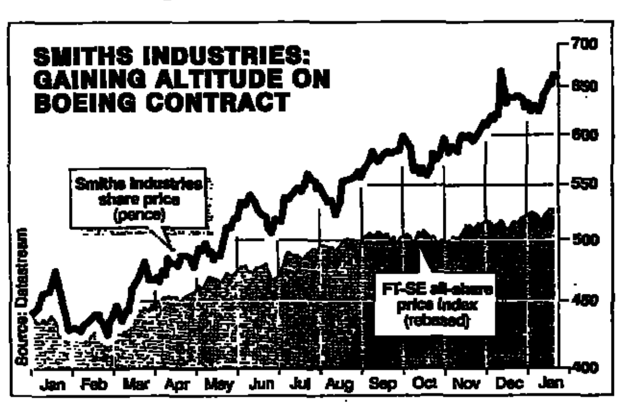
The Bank of England has confirmed plans to auction £3 *billion of Treasury 8 per cent* 2000 on January 31.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt ended five ticks down at £$111\tfrac{21}{32}$ in heavy trading that saw 80,000 contracts completed.

Among conventional issues, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 slipped $\tfrac{3}{16}$ to £$103\tfrac{1}{16}$, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £$\tfrac{5}{16}$ lower at £105¼.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares succumbed to profit-taking at midday as weaker bonds and US budget jitters gave investors an excuse to do some selling after the gains of the last few sessions. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 23.84 points to 5,195.52.

Babcock International marked time at 136p as NatWest Securities, the broker, urged clients to add to their holdings. Babcock has announced £100 million of new orders this year, *with letters of intent for a further £42 million.* NatWest is hoping for above average long-term profits growth.



New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	5195.52 (-23.84)
S&P Composite	611.82 (-1.58)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	20080.92 (-115.61)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	10957.22 (+1.89)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	504.80 (-3.63)
Sydney:	
AO	2246.60 (-14.0)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2384.47 (-6.06)
Singapore:	
Straits	2433.00 (-15.52)
Brussels:	
General	8890.65 (-58.18)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1934.08 (-20.34)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	722.20 (-6.20)
London:	
FT 30	2769.4 (-10.2)
FT 100	3735.0 (-19.2)
FT-SE Mid 250	4072.4 (-5.8)
FT-SE-A 350	1853.4 (-8.1)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1529.19 (-9.27)
FT A All-Share	1827.22 (-7.29)
FT Non Financials	1923.10 (-9.25)
FT Fixed Interest	114.74 (-0.49)
FT Govt Secs	95.98 (+0.78)
Bargains	38043
SEAQ Volume	752.7m
USM (Datastrm)	196.76 (+0.50)
US$	1.5145 (-0.0002)
German Mark	2.2366 (+0.0012)
Exchange Index	83.0 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1830
£:SDR	1.0352
RPI	150.7 Dec (3.2%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	149.6 Dec (3.0%) Jan 1987=100

Ballynatray Hldgs	6¼	...
Century Inns	118	+ 2
Cox Insurance	113	...
Dmatek	75	+ 2
Jupiter Split Cap	85½	...
Jupiter Split Inc	98½	...
Jupiter Split Units	#59	...
Mountcashel	¼	...
Nthn Petlm Wrts	8	...
Revelation Plcc	105	...
SkyePharma B Wrts	6½	+ ¼
Viewinn	140	+ 5

Eleco Holdings n/p (28)	¾	...
Persona n/p (225)	27	+ 1
SWP Group n/p (2½)	1½	...
Seafield Res n/p (65)	25	...
SkyePharma n/p (4)	4	...
Western Sel n/p (14)	¾	...

RISES:	
Austin Reed	172p (+22p)
Regent Inns	720p (+29p)
London Clubs	459p (+15p)
Irish Cont	508p (+15p)
Antofagasta	343p (+10p)
Forte	384p (+11p)
REXAM	379p (+10p)
Ramco Energy	474p (+11p)
Guinness	484p (+11p)
JD Wetherspoon	716p (+16p)
Carpetright	451p (+8p)
Nat West	668p (+11p)
FALLS:	
Mitel	346p (-51p)
MAID	193p (-11p)
Courtaulds	441p (-17p)
Eurodis Elec	293p (-11p)
Sappi	982½p (-32½p)
Granada	678p (-18p)
Cable Wireless	453p (-12p)
Montedison	417p (-9½p)
De La Rue	702p (-13p)
J Menzies	570p (-10p)
British Aerospace	873p (-15p)
Shell	833p (-12p)

Closing Prices Page 33

Premier at a premium

SO perfect is the fit between Farnell Electronics and Premier Industrial Corporation that negotiations over the price are likely to have been a little academic. At £1.85 billion Farnell has paid a hefty premium to acquire the business, an exit multiple of 24 times estimates of current year earnings. However, Premier will have been keenly aware that the British company could not afford to turn down the opportunity to become the world's largest catalogue distributor of electronic components. Moreoever, Farnell is buying a company twice its size and the main objective of Farnell's bosses would be to ensure they retained control of the larger group.

Farnell cannot avoid criticisms that it has *overpaid; earnings dilution from the share* issue and extra borrowings could hit 15 per cent in the first year on conservative forecasts. However, the deal of a lifetime should not be judged on short term forecasts. Farnell runs a tighter ship than Premier with the latter's margins seven points adrift offering scope for savings: the American company employs 4,500 staff to run a business that Farnell can manage with 2,300.

Meshing together the catalogue businesses is the main objective. Economies of scale should also be possible, allowing the new Premier Farnell to squeeze a bit more margin through bulk purchasing from components suppliers. Worries that Farnell has bid at the peak of the electronics cycle are overstated. Catalogue distributors deal with small orders and a cyclical downturn will mainly hurt high volume distributors. Shareholders with a long-term view will see value in the rights at 540p, only 12 times next year's earnings.

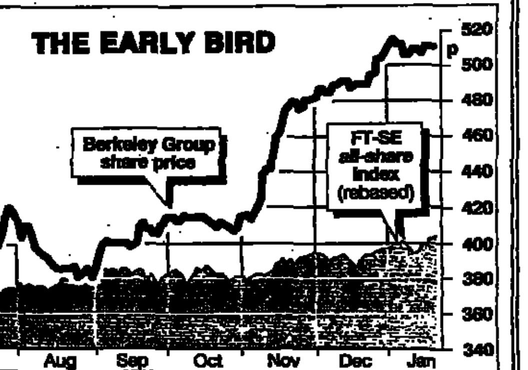
Berkeley

BERKELEY GROUP has a knack of timing its moves well. The company de-geared before the last recession and is currently *building up its land bank, at* a time when most housebuilders are nursing the expensive plots acquired during the bout of land price inflation in late 1994 and *early last year.*

But the timing of yesterday's rights issue has more to do with tactics than strategy. Berkeley does not need £73 million; the company is *relatively ungeared with* £17 million of borrowings and £50 million in anticipated land purchases will still leave gearing comfortably below Berkeley's self-imposed ceiling of 25 per cent.

Meanwhile, the building industry is in consolidation mode and several players have a covetous eye on the *buoyant equity market.* Berkeley is making its pitch for funds before the sale by Trafalgar of Ideal Homes. The winning bidder is likely to ask institutions for help.

Green belt planning pressure and the attractions of more upwardly mobile metropolitan house prices is pushing developers into London. Berkeley has schemes in *Barnes, the City and Battersea* and a major opportunity near Oxford Street. Redeveloping inner city land is more expensive than greenfield sites, but margins are good *and Berkeley is right to fill* its pockets now. Institutions are cash rich from bids but election anxieties could soon queer the market.



Unilever

LIKE a load of white washing that has been infiltrated by a blue shirt, Unilever is currently looking off-colour. When business is good, the results — and the share price — sparkle. But when affairs are poor, the blue shirt pops up, spoiling the picture.

Niall FitzGerald, the chair*man in waiting, has been* scrutinising the consumer products giant and the likely outcome is a further round of restructuring charges when results are revealed on February 20.

However, efforts to build up parts of the empire and expand further afield — particularly in developing markets — are beginning to pay off. Yesterday's acquisition of Diversey takes this process a step further as well as providing synergies with the group's existing businesses. The deal establishes Unilever as the second biggest player in the $7.4 billion industrial and institutional cleaning products market, a powerful position from which it can grow further.

The slow but steady growth of the elephantine consumer products companies makes them dull investments in bull markets. There is little doubt, however, that the Unilever has the potential to make significantly higher profits and if *the world is heading* for slower growth the defensive attractions of Unilever will become more apparent.

Trocadero

SONIC the Hedgehog may soon be chasing Noddy up and down the Trocadero's escalators but investors who back the Troc's £29 million rights issue want more than a financial Toytown. It is only four months since Burford, the property group, spun off the Trocadero with the promise that a joint venture with Sega would boost the take from the building's 16 million visitors per year.

SegaWorld has yet to prove itself but the Troc is already proposing to pay £14 million for Darrell Waters, owner of the Enid Blyton rights and a further £5 million in 3-dimensional cinema.

With turnover of less than £1 million from the books, the financial record of Darrell is so unimpressive that it must be regarded as irrelevant if the Troc's *management* have not taken leave of their senses.

It is easy to see how clever marketing could turn the Edwardian Enid Blyton characters into a cult and the Troc has plans for merchandising and films. Putting a value on the asset is almost impossible but it is astonishing that the copyright has earned so little compared with other children's books such as *Thomas the Tank Engine* or the dreadful Budgie. The Trocadero is asking a lot from its shareholders but it could be an awfully big adventure.

Edited by Carl Mortished

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	919-918	May	1033-1031
May	940-939	Jul	unq
Jul	960-959	Sep	--
Sep	980-979	Dec	--
Dec	999-998		
Mar	1020-1019		Volume: 7424

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	1914-1895	Sep	1636-1634
Mar	1865-1860	Nov	1625-1620
May	1713-1712	Jan	1620-1610
Jul	1652-1651		Volume: 3479

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	308.0-07.0
Spot: 380.5		Dec	301.8-00.0
Mar	363.8-63.0	Mar	301.3-98.0
May	349.5-48.7	May	300.3-97.0
Aug	334.5-33.0		Volume: 2411

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on January 20

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	105.25	123.70	120.99
(+/-)	+1.44	+3.74	+2.24
Eng/Wales:	105.45	124.24	120.72
(+/-)	+1.66	+3.93	+2.26
(%)	-2.0	+9.0	-16.0
Scotland:	99.83	121.25	123.90
(+/-)	-4.63	+2.74	+2.25
(%)	+29.0	+1.0	-19.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.45	n/c
Brent 15 day (Mar)	16.90	+0.10
Brent 15 day (Apr)	16.50	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	18.10	+0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	17.75	+0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 165 (n/c)	O: 168 (+1)
Gasoil EEC	161 (-1)	162 (-1)
Non EEC 1H Feb	159 (n/c)	161 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H Mar	159 (n/c)	161 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	96 (-1)	98 (-1)
Naphtha	169 (+4)	172 (+5)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)
GAS OIL

Feb	155.75-56.00	May	149.25-49.50
Mar	153.50-53.75	Jun	148.00-48.25
Apr	151.25-51.50		Vol: 20912

BRENT (6.00pm)

Mar	16.91-16.92	Jun	16.12 BID
Apr	16.49-16.52	Jul	16.01 BID
May	16.26-16.30		Vol: 29602

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	120.50	Jan	112.90
Mar	121.40	Mar	113.25
May	123.40	May	115.25
Jul	*125.35*	*Sep*	*107.00*
Sep	110.00	Nov	108.75
Volume: 333		Volume: 106	

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Mar	unq	200.0
Apr	185.0	187.6
May	unq	210.0
		Volume: 211

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Feb 105.00-105.50

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jan 96	1503	1495	1500
Feb 96	1465	1440	1449
Mar 96	1465	1441	1441
Apr 96	1465	1440	1445
Vol: 484 lots		Open interest: 4388	

Index 1532 -3

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)			Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	Cash: 2543.0-2547.0	3mth: 2490.0-2491.0	Vol: 1387825
Lead ($/tonne)	723.00-725.00	717.00-718.00	161275
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1023.5-1024.0	1045.0-1045.5	388350
Tin ($/tonne)	6270.0-6275.0	6305.0-6310.0	21415
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1533.0-1534.0	1561.5-1562.5	1097225
Nickel ($/tonne)	8180.0-8190.0	8288.0-8290.0	116166

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Alld Dom	500	46½	52½	59	6	12½	16
(*534½)	550	16½	24	32½	27	36½	40
Argyll	330	28	33½	37½	7	14½	17½
(*346)	360	12	18	23	21½	30	33
ASDA	100	10½	13½	15	3	4½	6
(*107)	110	5½	8½	10	7½	9½	10½
Boots	600	25½	35½	43½	18	27½	32½
(*601)	650	6½	15½	22½	51	58½	63
Br Airways	500	34	43	50	11	20	23½
(*517)	550	10	18½	26½	38½	46½	50
BP	500	26	37	41½	11	17	21½
(*514)	550	5½	14½	19½	42	46	49
Br Steel	160	12½	16	17½	5	10	12
(*165)	180	4	7	8½	17	22½	24
C & W	420	46	53	60½	6½	14½	16½
(*457½)	460	21	30½	38½	21½	30½	34
CU	600	36½	45½	52½	21½	27½	36
(*620)	650	12½	23½	30½	53	57½	64½
ICI	800	38	52½	61	26	34½	43½
(*820½)	850	14½	29½	38	56	63	71
Kingfshr	500	46	52	60	9½	17	21½
(*533)	550	16½	25½	34½	34	42	46½
Land Sec	600	49	56½	58	3½	12½	14½
(*637½)	650	16½	22	28½	21	35½	38½
M & S	420	27½	33	38½	7	13½	16½
(*435)	460	8	13½	19	28½	35½	38
Nat West	650	32½	48½	56½	24½	33½	42½
(*668½)	700	13	26½	35	56½	63	71
Sainsbury	390	30½	35½	41½	6½	12½	15
(*409)	420	13	19½	26	19	27½	30
Shell	800	46½	52½	61½	12	17½	24½
(*833)	850	16	25	34½	39½	43	49
Smkl Bch	700	33½	50	58½	19½	28½	34½
(*709)	750	12	27	35½	50	57½	61½
Storehse	280	19	25½	30	7½	12	15
(*288½)	300	10	15½	20	17	22	25
Trafalgar	30	6	8½	9½	2½	4½	6
(*33½)	35	3½	6	7½	5½	7½	8½
Unilever	1350	46	61½	81	32½	43	45
(*1362½)	1400	21½	37½	55	63	71½	73
Zeneca	1250	70	97½	111	37½	52	61
(*1284½)	1300	44½	70½	84	63½	77½	85

	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met	420	39	50	58½	1½	6	11½
(*455½)	460	10½	24½	34½	13½	20½	27
Ladbroke	160	10½	16½	21	5½	14	18
(*163½)	180	3	8½	13½	18½	26½	30
Utd Bisc	240	17	22	28	2½	9½	12½
(*253)	260	5½	12	18½	11	20½	23½

January 23, 1996 Tot: 35489 Call: 15886 Put: 19603 FT-SE Call: 4275 Put: 8525
*Underlying security price.

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
BAA	460	48	53½	61½	3	8½	11
(*499)	500	19½	29	37	15	22½	26
Thames W	500	52½	60	62	3½	13½	17
(*541½)	550	21	29½	33	20	37	40½

	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BAT Ind	550	33	42	50	4½	17½	28
(*576½)	600	6½	17½	27	28	46	55
BTR	330	9	13½	19	4	14	16½
(*333)	360	0½	3½	8	27	36	37½
Br Aero	850	39½	62	85½	12	32	42½
(*873)	900	15	37½	59½	37	58	67½
Br Telecm	360	18	28	35	2	7	14
(*375)	390	2½	12	18	16½	21	29
Cadbury	500	42½	50	60½	2½	14	19½
(*538½)	550	10	21	34	20	37½	43
Guinness	460	28	36	43	2	11	16
(*484)	500	5½	14	23	18½	32½	37
GEC	330	30	38	43	1	5	10
(*358)	360	8	18½	24	9½	16	22½
Hanson	191	15½	—	—	0½	—	—
(*205½)	211	2	—	—	7	—	—
LASMO	160	9½	14	19	3	7	8½
(*166)	180	1½	5	10	15	18	20
Lucas	180	18½	22½	26½	1	4½	7
(*197)	200	4½	10	15	7½	12½	15½
Pilkingtn	172	16½	22½	25½	1	3½	6½
(*187)	191	4½	11	15	7½	11	14½
Prudential	420	14½	23	35½	7	22	29
(*425)	460	1½	8	18½	35	49½	53½
Redland	360	13	22½	27	7	19½	23
(*363½)	390	3½	10	15	27½	39½	42
R-Royce	180	16	20	24	1	5½	8
(*194½)	200	3½	9	13½	8½	15½	17½
Tesco	300	8½	15½	21	6½	14½	17½
(*301)	330	1	5	9½	29	35	37
Vodafone	220	14	23½	28½	3½	8	13
(*230)	240	4	13½	18½	13	18	22
Williams	330	11½	19½	23	7½	12½	15
(*336½)	360	1	6½	10½	23½	32½	34

FT-SE INDEX (*3736½)

	3600	3650	3700	3750	3800	3850
Calls						
Feb	155½	112½	72½	40	19½	8½
Mar	173	134	97½	66	43	26
Apr	181½	145	114	85½	62½	43½
May	196½	161½	130	102	79	59
Jun	214	—	148½	—	96½	—
Puts						
Feb	6	12	24	43	74	117
Mar	20½	30½	45	64½	92	128½
Apr	38	50½	69½	90½	117½	149½
May	49	64	82	104½	132	162½
Jun	64	—	96	—	144	—

	Series	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Puts Mar	Puts Jun	Puts Sep
Abby Nat	650	27	39½	49½	27½	37	46½
(*654½)	700	8½	20½	30	63	69½	77
Amstrad	180	16½	23½	27½	9	12	14½
(*186½)	200	8	15	18½	20½	23½	25
Barclays	750	42½	54	66	16	26	35½
(*779)	800	14½	29	42	44½	53	61½
Blue Circ	330	26½	32	38½	4½	14½	18
(*350)	360	10	17	23½	17½	30	33
Br Gas	240	16½	20	25½	6	13½	16½
(*249)	260	7	12	16½	15	25	28
Dixons	390	37	48½	54½	5	11½	17
(*417½)	420	18	31	37½	16½	23½	30
Forte	360	25	27½	30½	2	3½	5
(*383)	390	3	8	11	13½	16	19½
Tarmac	100	10½	13½	15½	2½	5½	7½
(*107)	110	5	8½	11	7	11	12½
Hillsdwn	160	20	22	23½	1	4½	7
(*178½)	180	6½	9½	12	7	13½	16½
Lonrho	200	9	16½	21	7	10½	12½
(*203)	220	2	8	12½	20	22½	24
Sears	90	9	11	12	1	3	3½
(*97½)	100	3	5	6½	5	7½	8½
Thorn	1600	73½	118½	142½	30½	51½	73½
(*1626½)	1700	28	70	93	96½	104	125½
Tomkins	260	18½	27	30½	4	8½	13½
(*275½)	280	7½	15½	19½	13	17½	23
Lloyds TSB	322	25½	31½	—	6	12	—
(*347½)	352	8	16½	—	21½	27	—

	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo W	900	32½	51½	64	37	46½	58½
(*901½)	950	13	31	42	70	77½	88
HSBC	1050	68	89	108	38½	54½	68½
(*1082½)	1100	41½	64	83	64	80½	94
Reuter	600	37½	52½	65	19½	27½	34
(*616½)	650	14½	29	41½	47½	54½	61

	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Royal Ins	390	20½	31	40	20	28½	34½
(*396)	420	10	19	28	40½	47	52½

	Series	Mar	Jun		Mar	Jun	
Fisons	260	5	5	—	0½	0½	—
(*265)	280	0½	0½	—	15	19	—

	Series	Feb	May		Feb	May	
Eastrn Gp	950	30	43½	—	0½	0½	—
(*975)	1000	0½	7	—	25	25	—

	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Natl Pwr	420	26½	38	42½	6	16	21½
(*435½)	460	7½	17½	23	27½	37½	43
Scot Pwr	360	25½	34	39½	3½	8	13½
(*384)	390	8½	17	23	17	21½	28

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Mar 96	3765.0	3766.0	3752.0	3755.0	7831
Previous open interest: 65784	Jun 96	3761.0	3761.0	3754.5	3757.5	11
FT-SE 250	Mar 96	4080.0	4080.0	4080.0	4090.0	56
Previous open interest: 3363	Jun 96					0
Three Month Sterling	Mar 96	93.91	93.92	93.88	93.91	14940
Previous open interest: 389460	Jun 96	94.11	94.13	94.06	94.13	20329
	Sep 96	94.12	94.14	94.06	94.14	15334
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 96				94.67	0
Previous open interest: 0	N/A					
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 96	96.64	96.69	96.63	96.68	18216
Previous open interest: 1085774	Jun 96	96.76	96.83	96.75	96.82	33431
Long Gilt	Mar 96	111-19	111-23	111-07	111-21	78577
Previous open interest: 143186	Jun 96	110-31	110-31	110-24	110-31	433
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 96	119.58	119.66	119.53	119.58	2579
	Jun 96	118.12	118.16	118.12	118.10	730
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 96	100.70	100.89	100.50	100.86	173444
Previous open interest: 240766	Jun 96	99.90	100.13	99.83	100.16	196
Three month ECU	Mar 96	95.32	95.36	95.30	95.36	2789
Previous open interest: 21725	Jun 96	95.50	95.56	95.49	95.56	1028
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 96	98.20	98.27	98.13	98.26	10448
Previous open interest: 56751	Jun 96	98.20	98.27	98.11	98.27	8682
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 96	111.55	112.10	110.73	111.96	74523
Previous open interest: 65942	Jun 96	110.80	111.20	110.35	111.51	385

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¼ Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¼ Low 6¼ Week fixed: 6¼
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth [illegible] ; 3 mth [illegible] . Sell: 2 mth [illegible] ; 3 mth: 6 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open 6¼, close 6¼ .					
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	6
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.41	n/a	5.39	5.26	5.13
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2-1
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	n/a

Bullion: Open $403.60-404.00 Close: $402.65-403.15 High: $404.30-404.80
Low: $402.40-402.90 AM: $402.65 PM: $403.65

Krugerrand: $403.50-404.50 (£265.50-267.50)

Platinum: $423.00 (£278.65) Silver: $5.55 (£3.665) Palladium: $130.50 (£85.95)

Mkt Rates for Jan 23	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4953-2.5112	2.5079-2.5112	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brussels	45.79-46.05	45.95-46.05	13-10pr	34-29pr
Copenhagen	8.6200-8.6620	8.6600-8.6820	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dublin	0.9618-0.9659	0.9633-0.9659	11-7pr	25-20pr
Frankfurt	2.2277-2.2435	2.2404-2.2435	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lisbon	230.45-232.80	232.18-232.80	26-53ds	88-131ds
Madrid	187.82-188.99	188.71-188.99	39-49ds	113-130ds
Milan	2405.8-2421.0	2412.9-2416.9	7-9ds	20-23ds
Montreal	2.0693-2.0797	2.0736-2.0766	0.17-0.09pr	0.28-0.17pr
New York	1.5116-1.5162	1.5132-1.5142	0.12-0.10pr	0.31-0.28pr
Oslo	9.7700-9.8280	9.8130-9.8280	[illegible]	[illegible]
Paris	7.6280-7.6770	7.6640-7.6770	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	10.342-10.424	10.401-10.424	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	159.61-160.49	160.05-160.31	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vienna	15.665-15.776	15.750-15.776	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	1.7923-1.8038	1.8010-1.8038	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

Australia	1.3614-1.3623
Austria	10.38-10.39
Belgium (Com)	30.36-30.37
Canada	1.3711-1.3717
Denmark	5.7140-5.7170
France	5.0595-5.0610
Germany	1.4768-1.4777
Hong Kong	7.7305-7.7315
Ireland	1.5706-1.5726
Italy	1596.60-1597.00
Japan	105.77-105.82
Malaysia	2.5532-2.5542
Netherlands	1.6543-1.6548
Norway	6.4775-6.4805
Portugal	153.19-153.29
Singapore	1.4182-1.4192
Spain	124.51-124.59
Sweden	6.8547-6.8622
Switzerland	1.1880-1.1890

*Argentina peso**	1.5148-1.5174
Australia dollar	2.0618-2.0646
Bahrain dinar	0.5640-0.5760
Brazil real*	1.4734-1.4775
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.6980-0.7080
Finland markka	6.7900-6.9060
Greece drachma	364.25-371.25
Hong Kong dollar	11.7071-11.7163
India rupee	53.72-54.68
Indonesia rupiah	3428.00-3496.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4480-0.4580
Malaysia ringgit	3.8666-3.8706
New Zealand dollar	2.2907-2.2937
Pakistan rupee	51.79 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.6100-5.7360
Singapore dollar	2.1481-2.1504
S Africa rand (com)	5.4630-5.5650
U A E dirham	5.4925-5.6165

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank.*

3i	4,000	Land Secs	784
ASDA Gp	17,000	Legal & Gn	715
Abbey Ntl	2,000	*Lloyds TSB*	3,800
Allied Dom	1,900	Marks Spr	1,700
Argos	467	NatWst Bk	3,500
Argyll Gp	1,800	Nat Grid	5,200
AB Foods	348	Nat Power	1,800
BAA	936	P & O	3,400
BAT Inds	1,800	Pearson	1,100
BOC	335	Pilkington	5,400
BP	5,800	PowerGen	740
BSkyB	2,200	*Prudential*	2,700
BTR	7,200	REXAM	4,300
BT	6,200	RMC	225
Bk of Scot	2,500	RTZ	1,700
Barclays	1,900	Rank Org	4,500
Bass	620	Reckitt Col	498
Blue Circle	5,000	Redland	1,900
Boots	1,300	Reed Intl	1,600
BAe	1,500	Rentokil	675
BA	3,400	Reuters	1,500
Brit Gas	5,900	Rolls Royce	16,000
Brit Steel	4,000	*Royal Ins*	922
Burmah Cstl	1,500	Ryl Bk Scot	737
Burton	3,700	Sainsbury	3,500
Cable Wire	4,300	Schroders	16
Cadbury	806	Scot & New	1,300
Carlton Cms	466	Scot Power	1,000
Cm Union	793	Svrn Trent	316
Cookson	958	Shell Trans	5,400
Courtaulds	3,300	Siebe	848
Dixons	911	SmKl Bch	2,900
Emerpr Oil	2,000	Smith Nph	431
For & Col IT	713	Smiths Inds	1,400
Forte	33,000	Sthern Elec	3,000
GKN	549	Std Chartd	3,500
GRE	1,500	Sun Allnce	779
GUS	3,100	TI Gp	2,700
Gen Acc	373	Tate & Lyle	2,800
Gen Elec	4,100	Tesco	3,900
Glaxo Well	3,400	Thames W	305
Granada	12,000	Thrn EMI	1,600
Grand Met	973	Tomkins	1,800
Guinness	3,500	Unilever	2,400
HSBC	1,800	United Utils	330
Hanson	8,100	Vodafone	4,200
ICI	304	Whitbread	613
Kingfisher	1,100	Wlms Hld	264
LASMO	7,100	Wolseley	686
Ladbroke	2,300	Zeneca	1,300

	Jan 23 midday	Jan 22 close
AMP Inc	38¾	38
AMR Corp	74	73¾
AT & T	63¾	64¾
Abbott Labs	38¼	38¾
Advanced Micro	19¼	19¾
Aetna Life	73¾	73¾
Ahmanson (HF)	24¾	25
Air Prod & Chem	52¼	52¾
AirTouch Comm	27	26½
Alberto-Culver B	35½	35¾
Albertson's	33¾	32¾
Alcan Aluminum	30¾	30¾
Alco Standard	44¾	43¾
Allied Signal	48¾	48¾
Alum Co of Am	52¾	52¾
Amax Gold Inc	9	9¼
Amerada Hess	53¾	54¾
Amer Brands	44¾	45¾
Amer El Power	42¾	42¾
Amer Express	41¼	42¾
Amer Genl Corp	34½	34¾
Amer Home Pr	97¾	97¾
Amer Intl	91½	92¾
Amer Stores	25¾	26
Amer Standard	27¾	27¼
Ameritech	57	57¼
Amoco	68½	68¾
Anheuser-Busch	69¾	69¼
Apple Computer	32¾	30½
Archer Daniels	18½	18¾
Armco	5¾	5¾
Armstrng Wrld	60¾	60
Asarco	28¾	28¾
Ashland Oil	35¾	35¾
Atl Richfield	111½	113¾
Auto Data Pro	39¾	39¾
Avery Dennison	47¾	47¾
Avon Products	75¾	75¾
Baker Hughes	23½	23¾
Baltim Gas & El	28¾	28¾
Banc One	36¾	36½
BankAmerica	61½	60¾
Bank of NY	48	48
Bankers Tr NY	62¾	63
Barnett Banks	55¾	58¾
Bausch & Lomb	39¾	40¾
Baxter Intl	43½	43¾
Becton Dickinsn	79¾	80
Bell Atlantic	67	68
Bell Industries	20¾	20¾
BellSouth	40	40¾
Black & Decker	31¼	31¼
Block (H&R)	34¾	34¾
Boeing	78½	79¾
Boise Cascade	32¾	33¾
Bristol Myrs Sq	83¾	84¾
Browning Ferris	29¾	29¾
Brunswick	21½	21¾
Burlington Nthn	76¾	76¾
CNA Financial	111½	112
CPC Intl	71¼	71¾
CSX	44¾	44
Campbell Soup	59¾	59¾
Can Pacific	18¾	18¼
Cptl Cities ABC	126¾	124¾
Carolina Pwr	35½	35½
Caterpillar	61¼	63
Central & SW	26¾	27
Champion Intl	41	41¾
Chase Manhat	63	63
Chemical Bk	60½	60½
Chevron Corp	52¾	53¾
Chrysler	57¾	57¼
Chubb Corp	101¼	102¾
Cigna Corp	116¼	115¾
Citicorp	69¾	70¾
Clorox	78¾	77¾
Coastal Corp	36¾	36¼
Coca Cola	72½	73¾
Colgate-Palmolive	72¾	71¾
Columbia Gas	42¾	42¾
ColumbiaHCA	54¼	53¾
Compaq Comp	49¾	48¾
Comp Ass Intl	64	65¾
Conagra	43¾	43¾
Conrail	68¾	68¾
Cons Edison	33½	33¾
Cons Nat Gas	45	45
Cooper Inds	35¾	35¾
Corestates	38	38¾
Corning Inc	30¾	29
Crown Cork	41¼	41¼
Dana Corp	29¾	29¾
Dayton Hudson	72¾	71¼
Deere	34¾	35¾
Delta Air Lines	73¾	74
Deluxe Corp	27¾	27¾
Digital Equip	69¾	67¾
Dillard Dept St	28½	27¾
Disney (Walt)	60¾	60¾
Dominion Res	42¾	42¾
Donelley (RR)	35¾	35¾
Dover Corp	41¼	41¼
Dow Chemical	70	69¾
Dow Jones	39¾	39
Dresser	23¾	24
Duke Power	47¾	47¾
Dun & Brdstreet	64¾	64¼
Du Pont	73	73½
Eastman Chem	60¾	61½

	Jan 23 midday	Jan 22 close
Eastman Kodak	69¾	68¾
Eaton Corp	52¾	52¾
Emerson Elec	78¾	79¾
Engelhard Corp	22¾	22¾
Enron Corp	36½	36¾
Entergy	29¾	29¾
Ethyl Corp	12	12¾
Exxon	79¾	79¾
FMC Corp	68¾	68¾
FPL Group	45¾	45¾
Federal Express	71½	70¾
Fed Nat Mtge	31¼	31¼
First Interstate	144¾	143¾
First Union Rty	7¾	7¾
Fleet Finl Grp	39¾	39¾
Fluor Corp	65¾	65¾
Ford Motor	28¾	28¾
GTE Corp	44¾	44¾
Gannett	62	62¾
Gap Inc Del	45	43¾
Gen Dynamics	59¾	58¾
Gen Electric	73¾	74
Gen Mills	55¾	55¾
Gen Motors	50¾	50
Gen Reinsurance	147¾	149¾
Gen Signal	33¾	33¾
Genuine Parts	41½	42
Georgia Pac	67¾	68¾
Gillette	54¾	53¾
Glaxo Wellc ADR	27¾	27¾
Goodrich (BF)	72¾	71¼
Goodyear Tire	45¾	46¾
Grace (WR)	59	59¾
Grt Atl Pac Tea	21¼	21¼
Great Wstn Fin	23¾	24
Halliburton	46¾	46¾
Harcourt General	39¾	39¾
Heinz (HJ)	33¾	33¾
Hercules	55¾	55¾
Hershey Foods	65¾	65¾
Hewlett Packard	79¾	80¾
Hilton Hotels	73¾	72¾
Home Depot	44¾	44¾
Homestake Mng	18¾	18¾
Honeywell	47¾	48¾
Household Intl	57¾	57¾
Houston Inds	24½	24½
Humana	27¾	27¾
ITT Corp	53¾	53½
Illinois Tool	56	56¾
Illinova	29¾	29¾
INCO	33½	33¾
Ingersoll Rand	37¾	37¾
Inland Steel	27¾	26¾
Intel Corp	52¾	52
IBM	102¾	102¾
Intl Flav & Fr	48¾	48¾
Intl Paper	37¼	38¾
James River Va	23¾	23¾
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	86¾	86¾
Kellogg	75¾	75¾
Kerr-McGee	63¾	63¾
Kimberly-Clark	80¾	80¾
Kmart	6½	6
Knight-Ridder	65¾	65¾
Lilly (Eli)	52¾	52¾
Limited Inc	16	15¾
Lincoln Nat	52¾	52
Litton	48¾	48¾
Liz Claiborne	27¾	27¾
Lockheed Martin	76¾	76¾
Louisiana Pac	24¾	25¾
MCI Comm	27¾	27¾
Marriott Int	41½	42¾
Marsh & McLnn	86	86¾
Masco Corp	28¾	28¾
May Dept St	41¾	41
Maytag Corp	19¾	19¾
McDonalds	48¾	48
McDonnell D	86	87¾
McGraw Hill	86¾	86½
Mead Corp	50	51¼
Medtronic	52¾	51¼
Mellon Bk	51½	51½
Melville Corp	27¾	27¾
Merck Inc	66¾	66¾
Merrill Lynch	54¼	54¾
Microsoft	90¾	92
Minnesota Mine	62¾	63
Mobil Corp	107¾	108¾
Monsanto	122¾	123
Morgan (JP)	79¾	80¾
Motorola Inc	52¾	53¾
Natl Semi	17¾	17¾
Natl Service Ind	34¾	35½
Navistar Int	10	10¾
NY Times A	28¾	29
Newmont Mng	53¾	55¾
Niag Mohawk	9¾	9¾
Nike B	68¾	69¾
NL Industries	13¾	13¾
Noram Energy	8¾	8¾
Nordstrom	38½	38¾
Norfolk Sthrn	77¾	77¾
Nthn State Pwr	50¾	50¾
Norwest Corp	32¾	32½
Nynex Corp	50¾	51¼
Occidental Pet	20¾	20¾
Ohio Edison	23¾	23¾
Oracle	47	46

	Jan 23 midday	Jan 22 close
Oryx Energy Co	12¾	12¾
Owens Corning	41¼	41¼
PPG Industries	44½	44½
PNC Bank	29¾	29¾
PP&L Res	25¾	25½
Paccar Inc	44¾	44¾
Pacificorp	21¼	21¼
Pac Enterprises	26¾	26½
Pac Gas & Elect	27¾	27½
Pac Telesis	29¾	28¾
Pall Corp	24¾	24¾
Panhandle East	28¾	28¾
Parker Hannifin	33¾	34¾
Penn Energy	30¾	30¾
Penney (JC)	46	44¾
Pennzoil	40¾	41
Pepsico	57¾	57¾
Pfizer	61	61
Pharm & Upjhn	38¾	38
Phelps Dodge	59	60½
Phillip Morris	94¾	94¾
Phillips Pet	31½	32
Pitney Bowes	45¾	46¾
Polaroid	46¾	46½
PriceCostco	14¾	14¾
Procter & Gmbl	85¾	86¾
Providian	43¾	43
Pub Serv E & G	30¾	30¾
Quaker Oats	33¾	33¾
Ralston Purina	60	59¾
Raychem Corp	63¾	62¾
Raytheon	46¾	46½
Reebok Intl	26	26¾
Reynolds Metals	50¾	50¾
Rockwell Intl	56	56¾
Rohm & Haas	66½	65¾
Royal Dutch	134	136¾
Rubbermaid	29¾	28¾
SBC Comms	54¾	55¾
Safeco Corp	34¼	34¾
St Paul's Cos	57¾	57¾
Salomon Inc	36¾	37½
Sara Lee Corp	32¾	32½
Scecorp	17¾	18¾
Schering Plough	51	51¼
Schlumberger	67¾	67¾
Seagram	35¾	35¾
Sears Roebuck	40¾	40¾
Shell Trans	76¾	78¾
Sherwin Wlms	41¾	40¾
Skyline Corp	20¾	20¾
Snap-On-Tools	45¾	45¾
Southern Co	24¾	24¾
Sprint Corp	41½	42
Stanley Works	49¾	49¾
Sun Company	26½	26
Sun Microsys	44¾	48¾
Suntrust	66½	66¾
Supervalu	31½	31¾
Sysco Corp	31¼	31¼
TRW Inc	78¾	78¾
TCC Inds	2¾	2¾
Tandem Comp	9¾	9¾
Tandy Corp	38¾	38¾
Teledyne	25¾	25¾
Temple Inland	40¾	42¾
Tenneco	48¾	48¾
Texaco	78¾	78½
Texas Inst	46¾	48¾
Texas Utilities	40¾	40¾
Textron	75¾	75¼
Time Warner	39¾	39¾
Times-Mirror A	32¾	32
Timken	37¾	37¾
Torchmark	44¾	45
Toys R Us	21½	21½
Transamerica	73¾	74¾
Travelers	62	61½
Tribune	62¾	62½
Tyco Labs	34¼	34
UST Inc	33	33¾
UAL	166	168½
US Inds	17¾	18
USX Marathon	18¾	19¾
Unicom	34	34½
Unilever NV	144¾	145¾
Union Camp	45½	46¼
Union Carbide	39¾	39¾
Union Pacific	65½	65
Unisys Corp	6¾	6¾
USAIR Group	15¾	15¾
USF&G Corp	16¾	16¾
US Life	32½	33½
United Tech	94	93¾
Unocal Corp	29	28¾
VF Corp	49¾	49¾
WMX Tech	28¾	29½
Wal-Mart Stores	20¾	20¾
Warner-Lambert	92	91½
Wells Fargo	223	222¾
Westinghouse El	18¾	18½
Weyerhaeuser	41½	42¾
Whirlpool	51¼	52
Whitman	22¾	22½
Winn Dixie	36¾	36¾
Woolworth	10¾	11
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	54½	55
Xerox	140¾	141¼
Yellow Corp	12	11¾

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Going out at the top . . .

CHEER up Sir Rocco. Yesterday wasn't a total loss after all. At the Grosvenor House last night, and within hours of the outcome of the Granada/-Forte bid battle, Forte group picked up top honours at the annual *Travel Weekly* Globe ceremony. Forte, which has won prizes in every category since the awards were started in 1977, and last year collected the Best European title, was last night winner of the magazine's awards in both the Best European and UK Hotel categories.

. . .and with style

MEANWHILE, Lord Forte, founding father of the empire which has now passed to Granada, was as gracious as ever when a photographer from *The Times* asked to call on him at his London home. "I have a luncheon at 1pm, so please come at 3pm. And I hope your picture is not going to be used for my obituary."

Club clash

GRANADA'S Gerry Robinson, victorious over Forte, when asked how he would relax now the battle for Forte was won, quipped he would probably play golf, before adding, "Oops. But Sir Rocco and I are members of the same club."

"Didn't it used to be called the Waldorf?

Value for money

NICE to see that some non-executive directors earn their pay. Bob Horton, who heads Railtrack and is a former head of BP, as well as being a non-executive director at Farnell Electronics, was the man who instigated yesterday's £1.85 billion mega-deal for Farnell to acquire Premier Industrial Corporation, the US catalogue distributor of electronic components. Horton, who is paid £17,500 a year — the same as Farnell's other non-execs — has for some time known Morton Mandel, Premier's sprightly 74-year-old chairman, as they both have a longstanding involvement with various US charities. Horton approached Mandel and got the two sides talking last November but Howard Poulson, Farnell's chief executive, assures me Horton will not receive a finder's fee.

Pensioned off

IN THE aftermath of the Maxwell trial, Sir Peter Middleton's turn of phrase at a select committee inquiry into the privatisation of the nuclear industry raised eyebrows. The chairman of BZW, adviser to the Government on the sale, told the committee a separate fund was being set up to pay for decommissioning *in order to ensure* reliability of cash. He said it would operate on similar lines to a pension fund.

Home leave

IN THE latest round of staff pruning at SBC Warburg, 12 UK equity traders out of a complement of 55 were last night made redundant. The bank said the positions had been "under review" since the integration of Swiss Bank and SG Warburg, and was expected to be a "one-off".

COLIN CAMPBELL

Issues stirred by Forte scrap will resonate for some time

Alasdair Murray

on one of the most acrimonious takeover battles of recent years

In the end, it was deceptively easy. At 3.30pm yesterday, a jubilant Granada team revealed that the company had secured enough acceptances for its £3.8 billion bid for Forte to declare victory. Within an hour, a relaxed Gerry Robinson, chief executive of Granada, was congratulating his erstwhile opponents on their fine defence and beginning to plan for the future.

But the result disguises the truth behind one of the most acrimonious and closely fought takeover battles of recent years, the repercussions of which are being felt far beyond the two companies themselves. What started as a straightforward City fight over who should run an assorted collection of hotels and restaurants has finished with the public imagination gripped by the two chief protagonists, Mr Robinson and Sir Rocco Forte, chief executive of Forte. The bid has also raised questions about the assumptions and financial techniques that make bids such as Granada's feasible in the first place.

The battle started with a bang on November 22. While Sir Rocco was in Yorkshire on a shoot, Granada unveiled its £3.3 billion bid to the markets. It was a hardly an auspicious start for Forte, and Mr Robinson could hardly believe his luck. After two years of hard work, under a team led by Charles Allen, chief executive designate of Granada TV, the company had picked the perfect moment to launch the bid. The markets were saying by the end of the day that without a miracle defence Forte was a dead duck.

Forte's performance over the past few years had been sluggish. Its shares had underperformed the FT-SE all-share index by 40 per cent, and its dividend was almost a quarter below the level paid out in 1990. The company was perceived as obsessed with its "trophy" hotels such as the Waldorf in London and the George V in Paris and its 68 per cent stake in the Savoy and not concerned enough with providing real value to its shareholders through its more profitable mid-market chains such as Posthouse or Crest.

In contrast, Granada was a Square Mile star, outperforming the FT-SE by 156 per cent since 1990, increasing profits since Gerry Robinson arrived in 1991 from £57 million to £351 million, and having successfully bedded in its most recent takeover targets, LWT and Sutcliffe Catering.

But the image of the hapless Sir Rocco caught out by City professionals quickly proved to be false. If Granada had initally suspected that wrenching control of Forte from its founding family would be easy they had underestimated Sir Rocco's fighting powers. Sir Rocco, with his dapper Savile Row suits and immaculate establishment contacts may have looked like an old style City gent, but he was not going to give up the hotel and restaurant empire built up by his immigrant father, Lord Forte, without a serious fight.

Within a fortnight Forte hit back. Sir Rocco quickly assembled an impressive defence team, including Morgan Stanley, SBC Warburg, and later Cazenoves, but led by an old schoolfriend, Roberto Mendoza, vice-president of JP Morgan and a veteran of the brutal takeover battles on Wall Street in the 1980s.

Forte began to aggressively sell its assets, first disposing of peripheral businesses such as Lillywhites, the sports store, for £23 million and Griersons, the drink wholesaler, to Matthew Clark, the drinks company, for £23 million. The strategy developed into a fundamental restructuring of the Forte businesses, initially envisaged as a demerger of the restaurant and hotel arms, but becoming a wholesale sell-off of assets that were regarded as a poor fit. Travelodge, the US budget hotel chain, was sold for £114 million and just last weekend Forte agreed a deal with Regal hotels to dispose of the mid-priced White Hart chain for £122 million.

But the main deal was done with Whitbread, the brewer, which offered £1 billion to buy Forte's roadside business, including the Little Chef, Welcome Break and UK Travelodge chains, provided Forte's defence succeeded. With the money from the disposals, Forte was able to devise its *coup de grace* — an £800 million share buy-back plan announced on January 2. The scheme, which included a commitment to increase the dividend by 20 per cent for the next three years and the distribution of Forte's stake in the Savoy to shareholders, tipped the balance back in Forte's favour. There was even talk that Granada would withdraw from the bid altogether, or at best offer a token rise in the price and accept defeat.

But Mr Robinson has built his reputation on his fighting prowess and still had a week to put together a response. When it came on January 9, in the form of a 47p special dividend effectively increasing the bid to £3.8 billion, it proved to be a killer blow. By that stage, however, the bid battle had spilt over on to a much wider front. Other companies and organisations were being caught in the crossfire.

Both sides admitted they wanted to dispose of the Savoy stake, but left the Wontner family, who retained voting control of the upmarket hotel group, uncertain over its future. The venerable gentlemen of the Forte Council, an archaic body orginally formed to promote temperance, also became involved. The council controlled just over 50 per cent of the voting rights in Forte and so possessed the power to veto the bid. Granada was forced to offer £50 million, equivalent to £64 a share, to persuade the council to not intervene.

The costs for the two sides continued to pile up. Beyond the financial advisers were the PR firms vigorously promoting their clients' cases for their clients and the tax bills that loomed from sell-offs and pay-uts. Granada has estimated its fees at about £105 million, while Forte put its at £50 million. But the total bill could reach £250 million as Granada absorbs all the costs of the bid. The battle was also being played out in the media, polarising opinion to an unusual degree, as both sides sought to win the hearts and minds of the shareholders, who would ultimately decide Forte's fate. The Forte cause became the rallying cry of those who view the latest outbreak of bid fever in the City as destructive and shortsighted. They accused Granada of indulging in asset-stripping. Granada supporters retorted that the company was challenging the complacency and snobbery of Forte's establishment culture.

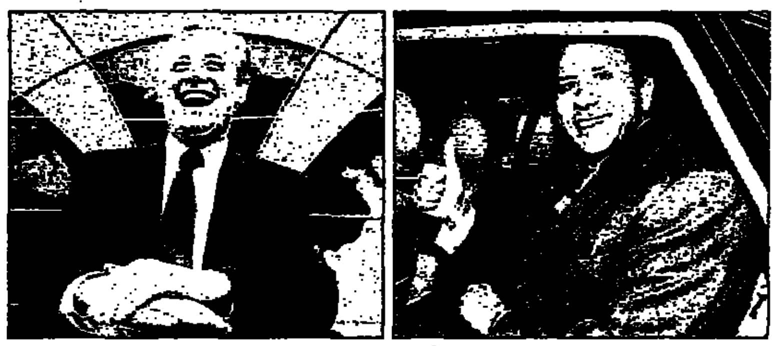
It also focused attention on the role of the fund managers, the pivotal figures in any bid, demonstrating that the fortunes of British industry were now largely in the hands of a few anonymous City men and women. In an unusual move, Mercury Asset Managment lifted the veil of secrecy on its dealings on the last morning and revealed it had cast its 15 per cent stake for Granada. Carol Galley, MAM's vice-chairman, had effectively decided the outcome of the bid.

Forte will quickly become no more than a memory. Its name is likely to be lost from the hotels and restaurants it ran for so many years. But the issues that the takeover battle stirred up are likely to resonate for some time to come.

Sir Rocco Forte, chief executive, ran an aggressive defence campaign

BSkyB's David Chance, Charles Allen, top right, and Gerry Robinson, below

Sir Rocco with Sir Anthony Tennant, Forte's non-executive chairman



Messrs Allen and Robinson picked the perfect moment to drive against Forte

Mr Robinson has congratulated his opponents and begun to make plans

TIMETABLE OF THE BID BATTLE

November 22: Granada launches £3.3 billion bid, offering shareholders around 328p a share or 321p cash.

December 3: Forte sells Lillywhites for £28.5 million.

December 4: Forte announces plans to demerge the restaurant division and sell off its Savoy stake.

December 6: Forte sells Griersons for £23 million.

December 12: Granada outlines plans to merge Crest and Posthouse, and Meridien and Exclusive brands.

December 14: Granada claims £100 million cost savings in deal.

December 20: Forte sells Travelodge business in the US for £112 million.

December 30: Forte agrees sale to Whitbread of roadside businesses for £1.05 billion if bid defence successful.

January 2: Forte revises defence to include £800 million share buyback, 20 per cent increase in dividend and distribution of Savoy stake to shareholders.

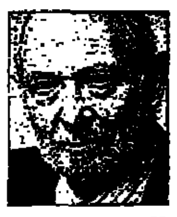
January 9: Council of Forte accepts £50 million offer from Granada to refrain from using its veto.

January 9: Granada raises bid to £3.8 billion, worth 373.5p a share or cash offer of 362p. Says will sell Meridien and Exclusive brands.

January 16: Forte announces splitting roles of chief executive and chairman, with Sir Anthony Tennant becoming chairman.

January 20: Forte sells White Hart hotels for £122 million.

January 23: Deadline for acceptances. Granada wins.



ANTHONY HARRIS

Recession — the sinister message of the bull run

Last week I teased the Germans, among others, for wishful thinking, little knowing that it was a matter of international agreement: but now it is official. The Group of Seven met last weekend to consider the signs of a general economic downturn, and produced an agreed solution: they forecast an upturn in the second half of the year. This, of course, excused them from doing anything. This looks likely, but evades a vital question? Up from what? If the current downturn is as sharp as European evidence suggests, even a relative recovery could leave us in recession — and EMU in ruins. Not the best background to the Commission's extravagant Euro advertising campaign.

This, you may think, is nothing more than a cheap Eurosceptic joke. The G7 is surely as well qualified to make a forecast as any broker (and some still share the rosy view of the G7), let alone a mere columnist. What is more, the markets are endorsing the G7 view, rushing ahead to daily new records; and the markets, on one traditional view, are never wrong. But that assumes that stock markets are good economic forecasters, while their record shows just the opposite — they have forecast eight of the last two recessions. And on a Gordon Pepper, market-monetarist interpretation, the bull market means just the opposite: a recession.

It is some time since this column spelt out Professor Pepper's view, so here goes. Markets are moved in the short term not by economic expectations, but by the flow of money. When the economy is vigorous, savings and credit flow into real investment in plant and buildings, and into consumer spending. Security markets respond only sluggishly to improved profits and lower government borrowing. In a slowdown, by contrast, companies prefer bids to real expansion, and consumers trim their spending. This pumps money into the markets: it has nowhere else to go. Hence the long history of bull markets in economic recessions. Historically, the bottom of the recession often marks a market peak.The economic evidence to back this gloomy reading is so far patchy: the German downturn, hard time and price wars in the British mass market and in housing, weak investment spending, bid fever. The crucial US economy has been hidden from view by the Government shutdown, but now some suggestive numbers are beginning to appear. The revised, chain-weighted GDP figures, for a start, suggest that the strong 1995 picture was partly a statistical illusion; and the forward-looking indicators of industrial and consumer confidence offer no comfort. It is still far from certain that we are in a Pepper world, but it does look increasingly plausible.

Why the slowdown? The fingers-crossed view is that this is no more than an inventory sub-cycle, which will resolve itself as soon as stock ratios are restored to normal. But every recession, deep or otherwise, starts with an inventory overshoot; we need to explain why sales have been disappointing, and judge whether the cause is temporary. A new theory was recently put before Congress by Governor Larry Lindsey of the US Federal Reserve: at the least, it deserves serious attention.

> *Much of the growth in spending has been financed by first-time credit cardholders on low incomes*

Lindsey cites two causes: growing inequality, and the spread of plastic money. Growing inequality, according to Reaganomic theory, should have caused a bulge in saving, Victorian-style; it did not. The reason, says Lindsey, citing detailed statistics collected by the Fed, is the democratisation of the credit card. Much of the growth in spending has been financed by credit cards issued to first-time holders with incomes as low as $10,000 a year. This explains the surge in US consumer debt, and may also explain the slowdown: poor families have run into the credit buffers. Now we may see the Reganomic result: higher saving, weak spending.

This is plausible, though tentative and controversial. Has anything similar happened this side of the pond? We don't know, because our central bankers lack the Fed's intellectual curiosity. Somebody should find out.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Eurostar's service and the little-known link train

From Mr John Grant-Wood

Sir, Sir Alastair Morton's comments on Eurostar (Report, January 11) are depressing but familiar.

My wife and I have booked a few days in The Hague to see the Vermeer Exhibition and will travel by rail. A very reputable travel firm informed me that European Passenger Services could not book first class from Edinburgh to London Waterloo on the link train, and that we could not stay overnight in London on the way back in order to return on the same service. Our excellent Continental Booking Department at Waverley Station, in Edinburgh, confirmed that they *can* book me staight through to The Hague first class from Edinburgh, and that I *can* stay overnight in London both going out and coming back. It is essential to be able to do this, as some journeys to and from Continental Europe obviously arrive too late for the onward connections.

I have not yet met anyone here among the general public who knows about the link train, and a French student friend was told recently by the local branch of a big travel agent that to return to Paris by the cheapest way was to take the train to London King's Cross, make her way to Heathrow and fly from there!

The Eurostar is superb, but the publicity is dismal.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GRANT-WOOD,
Rossarden,
20 Greenhill Gardens,
Edinburgh.

Tracking shrinking growth forecasts

From M. C. Fitzpatrick

Sir, You report (December 23) on the projection by Goldman Sachs that the UK economy will grow by 1.7 per cent in 1996, well below the Treasury forecast of 3 per cent.

You also note Goldman Sachs's belief that destocking will limit quarterly economic growth for the last quarter of 1995 and the first quarter of 1996 to just 0.1 per cent in each case, with quarterly growth increasing to 0.4 per cent in the second quarter of 1996. Using these figures, even the 1.7 per cent overall growth rate forecast by Goldman Sachs appears ambitious. For 1.7 per cent growth to be achieved, quarterly growth in the two final quarters of 1996 would have to accelerate to around 1.2 per cent per quarter — not impossible, but a tall order.

Is anyone yet running a sweepstake to predict the date on which the Treasury will first "downsize" its 1996 growth forecast? Such a downsizing would continue a trend established in respect of the Treasury growth rate forecast for 1995: set at 3.25 per cent in November 1994, it has now been downsized three times to a figure "below 2.75 per cent".

Yours faithfully,
M. C. FITZPATRICK
(Senior Tax Consultant),
Chantrey Vellacott,
10-12 Russell Square, WC1.

The Nobel laureate, his wife and how expectation moves house prices

From Mr John Raybould

Sir, Pennington is quite right to say that house prices are harder to forecast than virtually any other economic statistic because "As in sub-atomic physics, the market is weirdly affected by the presence of the observer" (December 28). He is supported by none other than the 1995 Nobel Prize Winner in Economics, Professor Robert E Lucas, of the University of Chicago. His highly influential work on the impact of people's "rational expectations" has led , as his Nobel citation notes, "to a fundamental re-think of the efficacy of demand management policies".

So Pennington's comments that, in the housing market, "one of the most important uncertainties is the expectation among house-owners of what prices will do next" have become a very important aspect of Lucas economics.

Mrs Lucas, too, seems to know all about the role of the unexpected. Perhaps bearing in mind that seven economists at the University of Chicago had already won Nobel Prizes, she actually included in her recent divorce settlement the innovative provision that if her husband won the Nobel Prize within a specified period, she would get half his prize money! With only a few days of the clause remaining in effect, he won! She is now better off, I believe, by $500,000. Was this a triumph of feminine intuition or rational expectations, I wonder?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN RAYBOULD,
The Old Vicarage,
Newport, Essex.

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Generators will charge some companies more, says **Rodney Hobson**

Businesses to pay a higher price for power

Stand by for an increase in power costs. After a period of stability and even falling prices in a buyer's market, companies face a first quarter squeeze with the introduction of a new network code for gas and changes to local distribution costs for electricity.

Andrew Gardiner, performance group manager at Procord, says that businesses in the South West could be particularly affected by electricity price rises. He says: "Businesses located further away from the distribution centre will be charged more. Many power generation sites are in the North, where businesses could come out of the changes quite nicely. Historically, power was generated from coal-fired stations and they tended to be sited in the coalfields. More recently we have moved to gas-fired stations and the pipelines come in to the northeast coast."

Electricity is lost the further it is transmitted. It is estimated that supplying power to areas away from the power stations can absorb 10 per cent of the power generated. Prices charged to companies will in future reflect that loss.

Following a drop in gas prices in the July-September quarter, the fourth quarter of 1995 saw prices stabilise, according to the *Times*/Procord index of office costs.

Mr Gardiner believes prices will start to move upwards again next month following the delayed introduction of the network code.

The two main increases in costs in the fourth quarter were in cleaning and reprographics, the index shows.

Cleaning saw a continuation of the rise in labour costs experienced through much of 1995 in what is a volatile labour market. Although the cost of cleaning materials stayed steady, the cost of cleaning rose 2 per cent.

Although the price of paper was more stable towards the end of the year, the cost of reprographics rose 3 per cent, with the high demand for this service pushing labour costs higher.

Mr Gardiner says: "The paper mills have been trying to raise the price further but this has been resisted. We are, however, likely to see a further increase in paper costs in the second or third quarter."

The good news has been a fall in the cost of office equipment. Barry Varcoe, international performance manager, says: "It is not that the price of faxes and photocopiers has come down, it is the ability to negotiate discounts. Those who are willing to take the time and trouble to negotiate are likely to see further price falls.

"When models change you can get products that are less than a year old at a knockdown price if you know where to look. You do not need to use the same brand you have always used. Shop around and you can get some good deals. A lot of people just phone up and order for the sheer convenience and they pay the price."

The *Times*/Procord index showed a fourth quarter increase of £25 per employee to £1,261 in the cost of property operations but a fall of £14 to £2,226 in support services costs.

The index is compiled from information from more than 250 offices across the UK.

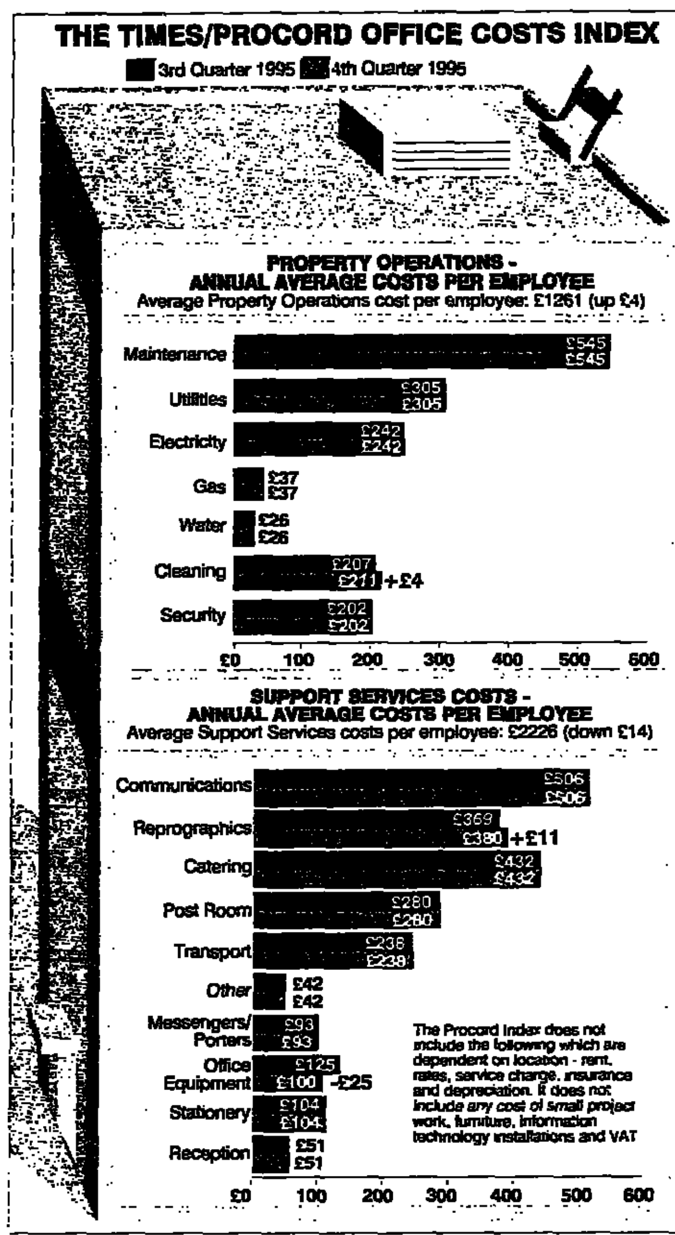
Telecommunications, already the highest support service cost, could see a rise in prices to businesses followed by a fall back almost to today's levels, Mr Varcoe believes.

Communications presently costs £506 per office occupant each year, second only to maintenance within the overall facilities management remit. Currently *The Times*/Procord Index shows costs being held down by the competitive market, with a number of cable and mobile operators making inroads into the main market. However, the demand for services is also growing rapidly.

Mr Varcoe says: "Paging, faxing and video-conferencing are gathering pace. I should not be surprised if 1996 is the year when it all takes off. A lot of investment is being made in PC-based systems. Increasingly it is not just specialist areas that are demanding specialist services. Businesses generally are seeing that they can use the Internet as a way of doing business and of promoting themselves."

Although the increased demand will give service providers the chance to raise prices in the short term, that will simply bring more service providers into the market, driving prices back down again, Mr Varcoe suggests. He sees a trend in the UK towards paying for the services taken rather than paying for the telephone line itself. That would reflect the position in America and places such as Singapore and Hong Kong, where local calls are free, and would give free access to the Internet.

THE TIMES/PROCORD OFFICE COSTS INDEX



The Procord Index does not include the following which are dependent on location - rent, rates, service charge, insurance and depreciation. It does not include any cost of small project work, furniture, information technology installations and VAT

Going for gas

Chesterton cooks up a deal with energy giant to boost efficiency

Chesterton, the estate agency, is poised to announce a big boost to its plans to expand its facilities management arm. After four months of negotiations, it hopes to complete an agreement within the next two weeks to take over British Gas Properties Facilities Management, *Rodney Hobson writes.*

If the deal goes ahead, it will double the turnover of Chesterton's facilities management business. British Gas PFM employs 1,200 staff at 160 sites. It provides a full range of services for the utility, including repair and maintenance of buildings. Gas showrooms are not affected.

Chesterton will pay for the FM division by issuing its own shares to British Gas, which will become a major shareholder as well as a major client. British Gas would hold not more than 25 per cent of Chesterton and would guarantee not to sell its stake for at least three years.

Chesterton had hoped to clinch the deal in November but details took longer than expected to finalise. No major issues now stand in the way of the deal. Both companies wrote to all the staff involved as part of the consultation process.

British Gas took the decision to sell after a wide-ranging review of how to save money and make its operations more efficient.

It believes that a takeover by Chesterton would give the affected employees a chance to continue their careers in facilities management with a company which is keen to expand, but staff will also be given the option of taking voluntary redundancy. Some will be able to continue working for British Gas in another department.

Chesterton began to expand its facilities management business nearly two years ago. Acquisitions have included Consolidated FPM, Cyril Sweett and Bell-Ingram.

The British Gas contract is expected to be for six years and is likely to be worth more than £100 million in the first year. There would be an option to extend the contract for three years.

British Gas has been keen to contract out non-core operations, especially when loss of jobs can be avoided. Late last year Hoskyns, the computer services group, won a competitive tender to run information systems for British Gas for 18 months.

Hoskyns made a deliberate effort to persuade existing British Gas staff to come on to its books. Of the 1,150 affected, 600 have switched. The remainder have stayed with British Gas or taken voluntary redundancy.

Chris Moffat, executive director of Hoskyns, says: "We are delighted that so many skilled people have chosen to join us. The mission was to attract people to work with Hoskyns, but also to make other options as clear as possible."

Hoskyns is the British subsidiary of Cap Gemini Sogeti, which claims to be Europe's largest computer services company and the fifth largest in the world. Hoskyns has main offices in six British cities and in Dublin, plus a network of smaller offices and data centres.

The British Gas contract is estimated to be worth £55 million. British Gas is currently in the middle of a major corporate restructuring designed to save £600 million a year, part of which involves the closure of 14 data centres. But until new systems are in place, the task for Hoskyns will be to ensure that the existing systems continue to work efficiently.

BRIEFS

New guides

THE British Institute of Facilities Management this month introduced two new guides free to members. The *Facilities Management Measurement Guide* sets out a common basis for defining an organisation's operations to allow comparisons between different sites and the *Space Planning Guide* explains the allocation and laying out of space and the role of planning. Non-members can obtain copies for £15 each from the BIFM on 01799 508608.

Results improve

CONSULTANTS enjoyed a strong final quarter in 1995, according to figures from the Management Consultancies Association. Revenue of members totalled £365 million compared with £341 million in the third quarter. Order books also improved, leaving 81 per cent of members operating at full capacity. Growth has been strongest in the overseas sector and weakest in the public sector, retailing and construction and property.

Chapel contract

THE first supervision project for Mowlem's MFM Design unit under the construction, design and management legislation is the refurbishment of the 18th-century chapel at Clare College, Cambridge. Mowlem FM has also won the £8 million contract to maintain London Docklands Development Corporation's estates.

Net association

A TRADE association to represent Britain's Internet providers has been formed. The Internet Services Providers Association has 25 members under the chairmanship of Shez Hamill of Cablenet. The association's committee includes Chris Cain of Aladdin, Cindy Copsey of Innotts, Peter Dawe of Pipex, Mark Duddy of Dialnet, Nick Hixson of Bournemouth-Net, Aled Morris of Reuters and Richard Sharpe of Hiway.

Feeding 3,000

THE catering contract to feed 3,000 staff at the head office of Norwich Union, the insurance group, has been awarded to Nelson Hind Catering Management, adding more than £1.5 million to the turnover of the Rugby-based company.

Just the tickets

THE maintenance contract for the 232 automatic ticket printers at Stena, the shipping line, has been won by Preview Data Systems.

Correction

Richard Wilkins, of Symonds, is acting as an expert witness in a £12 million case, not Roger Williamson, of Liebert Europe, as stated on the Facilities Management page on December 20.

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Facilities Management

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The Times will be producing a tabloid sized supplement in March 1996 in association with Blenheim Events to coincide with F.M.Expo 96.

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Check your building now to see if it satisfies new legislation, **Widget Finn** advises

How to pass an access audit

The Tate Gallery on Millbank, central London, hit the headlines during its Whistler exhibition when protesters demonstrated against the restricted number of wheelchairs allowed in the galleries.

"The problem arose because our own warders were responsible for evacuating wheelchair users in the event of a fire," Sandy Nairn, director of public and regional services for the Tate Gallery, says. "The simple and commonsense solution which we've adopted is to move the wheelchair users to a designated safe place until they can be evacuated by the emergency services."

The Tate's Whistler and Dynasty exhibitions attracted an older audience than the regular visitors to contemporary shows, and their presence highlighted the need for good signing and generous circulation areas which would also benefit parents with small children and pushchairs.

New legal requirements and a lottery application have been the catalyst for the Tate to review its existing buildings in a *drive to improve customer* services.

Legislation and the lottery are forcing organisations to focus on whether their buildings are accessible to disabled people. An increasing number of organisations are conducting access audits to establish what adjustments they will have to make to bring their buildings in line with new regulations.

The criteria for lottery awards include suitable access so that everyone can make full use of a building. The Disability Discrimination Act — which goes on the statute books this month — is relevant to a much wider group, requiring all providers of goods and services to give "reasonable" access to disabled people. The definition of "reasonable" has yet to be clarified, and there is a ten-year period for alterations to be completed. There will be no brownie points for leaving compliance to the last minute and prudent organisations are already setting up programmes of improvement.

Initial government estimates that compliance with the new Act would cost British business £17 billion have been exposed as scaremongering. Many adjustments which make a building accessible for disabled people cost little or nothing, says David Bonnett, an architect specialising in disability design. Often the key is good communications, such as installing clear signs or providing an information sheet about the building. Adjustments can be combined with regular repairs and included in standard budgets, Dr Bonnett adds.

"Incorporating vision panels on doors at wheelchair height, lowering door handles or raising electrical sockets can easily be done as part of a building's normal refurbishment," he says. "Even redecoration provides an opportunity for improvements. Door openings can be highlighted by choosing contrasting colours, and laying the right carpet will make the distinction between vertical and horizontal planes clearer for people with physical impairments."

Some requirements, such as lifts or disabled toilets, will be expensive, says Dr Bonnett, but the trick is to look at the programme as a long-term plan and build in major items as part of your overall maintenance programme.

Organisations should not get too worried at the prospect of legislation, says Sarah Langton-Lockton, chief executive for the Centre for Accessible Environments, which provides information about access audits.

"An access audit is a starting point for getting to know the shortcomings of a building and drawing up a plan to remedy them." Ms Langton-Lockton says. "The cost of an audit is relatively small and an important investment at any early stage in the programme."

An initial half-day site meeting with the facilities manager to discuss the problems is followed by a report which identifies the relevant areas and the resources which will be required. The cost for *assessing a typical office building* is about £1,500 and enables the organisation to judge the scale of work involved. Fees for the main audit conducted by a surveyor are about £2,000.

Improving access benefits more than just the disabled, which means that the cost can be spread among several budgets, according to Madeleine Collin, *Oxford* Brookes University, where Ms Collin is an adviser for disabled students, has two campuses. The hotchpotch of buildings are ill-suited to disabled people and also to Brookes's large population of mature students. The university wanted a strategic approach to access which could be completed in a ten-year rolling programme of work.

Its access audit recommended priority for low-cost adaptations, such as removing a couple of chairs in the lecture theatre to make proper space for wheelchairs and installing a handrail in the centre of wide steps.

"The university will cross-reference all future works by making the report available to the buildings and estate departments," Ms Collin says, "so that designing for disability is something we think about before rather than afterwards."

Dr Bonnett argues that a good access audit demonstrates the added value of improving access. The Tate Gallery's front entrance, approached by sweeping steps, is a daunting climb for anyone but the most agile. The general refurbishment scheme provides a wheelchair-accessible side entrance which places visitors — disabled or otherwise — nearer to the information desk, shop, café and toilets.

"Thoughtful design, like a non-slip floor surface or a sheltered entrance, benefits us all," Dr Bonnett says. "An access audit looks at how to make buildings more convenient and safer for everyone."

● *Information on access auditors from the Centre for Accessible Environments (0171-357 8182O). The Access Committee for England (0171-250 0008).*

ALAN WELLER

Wheelchair users now have special access to the Tate Gallery via a side entrance

Make your move without a muddle

The biggest nightmare of moving a business from one location to another is how to handle computers and other sophisticated technical equipment.

A move will involve more than unplugging connections, carrying the equipment and floppy disks to the new site and then rewiring them. Obstacles — *human, physical and* technical — will have to be overcome. Back-up systems may be needed to keep the company working while on the move, and there is the issue of security — the loss through accident or theft of vital components.

"Some managers think that relocating a company is just like moving house: a simple matter of a lorry and some men turning up to carry equipment from one place to another," Tony Leach, project manager for *Hewlett-Packard's* relocation team, says. "It is a highly complex operation which requires detailed planning and good *communication. Some* problems might be obvious, such as dealing with partitions erected after the technology was installed, but others can be more fundamental."

Hewlett-Packard provides a complete site survey of a company's new location and makes recommendations about power supplies, air conditioning, room layout and information technology. Its Relocation Services branch is part of the computing company's network integration services division, which is linked to the facilities management unit.

Among the moves it has achieved is one in south London for Mondial Assistance, the emergency system which provides 24-hour medical services. "The logistics involved in this type of move are complex," Stuart Cadlock, Mondial's IT manager, says. "Through Relocation Services, we had only one point of contact that covered all the suppliers involved in the move. This allowed for a smooth process which might otherwise have become confused through misunderstandings."

One point of contact and thorough planning are two of the rules of relocation set down by Nigel Dowler, *marketing manager of* Hewlett-Packard's network integration services division. Mondial's change was achieved by moving the technology in two operations. Some equipment remained at the old location while the rest was installed as part of an upgraded data and voice network in the new offices.

Mondial staff work on a shift basis, so the switchover took place as one shift finished in the old office and the next one began in the new location. When the new premises were online, the remaining equipment was transferred. "Although each system ran on slightly reduced processing capacity during the move, this made no practical difference to the company or its clients," Mr Dowler says.

Although they were not required on this occasion, Relocation Services can call up Hewlett-Packard's mobile computing centres, which have enough computers and space for 20 people, to take over the basic data functions of a company during a move.

Care and security must also be considered *in moving delicate* technical equipment. When the path is clear, air-cushioned platforms with protective edges are brought in to carry the computers. If the *equipment needs to negotiate* stairs, a device called an electronic stair-climber with caterpillar tracks and protective corners is employed.

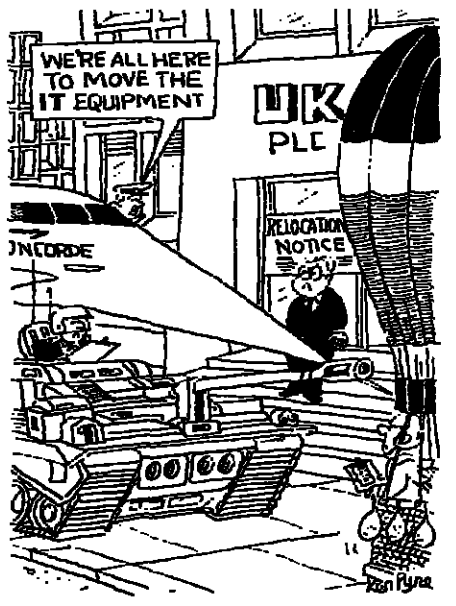
Strategic equipment is often divided into two loads for journeys from one site to another. "We would hardly be doing our job properly if a client lost all its equipment in the unlikely event of a lorry crash or ferry disaster," Mr Leach says.

"This safety-first approach can have its own problems, however. French lorry *drivers started a block*ade of the Channel ports while we were moving a company from England to France. One computer load beat the blockade but the other was stuck on a ferry."

A new set of problems surrounds relocations from one country to another. Customs officers can be extremely suspicious of IT equipment. "The US Customs is always concerned about computers coming in from Eastern Europe, and the only way of avoiding lengthy delays is to make sure that every conceivable piece of paperwork has been properly done," Mr Dowler says.

He and his team have to cope with differing power and telephone networks during international moves. The experts also find that when multinationals are consolidating their operations in a new centre, departments from different countries move at varying paces and allowances must be made for this.

TONY DAWE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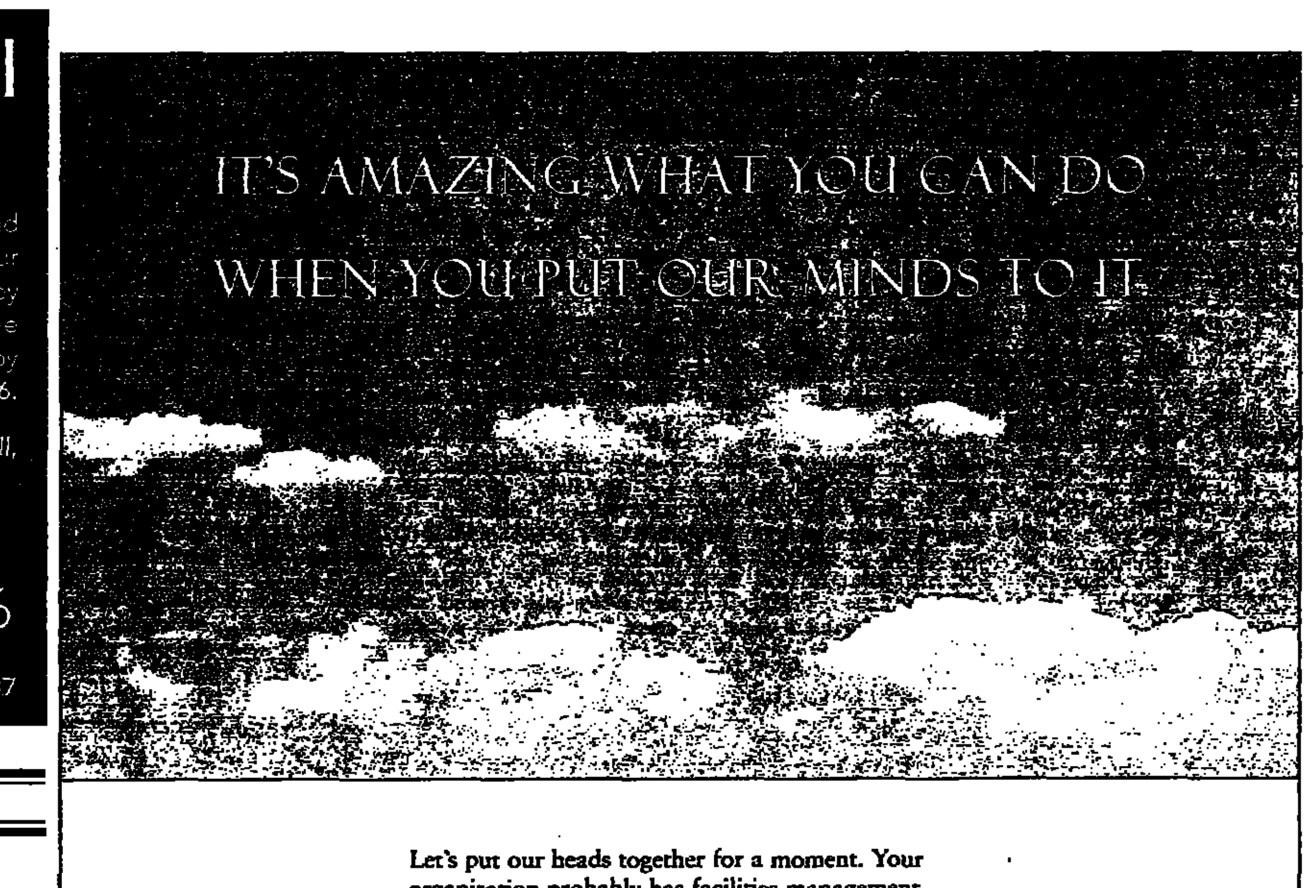

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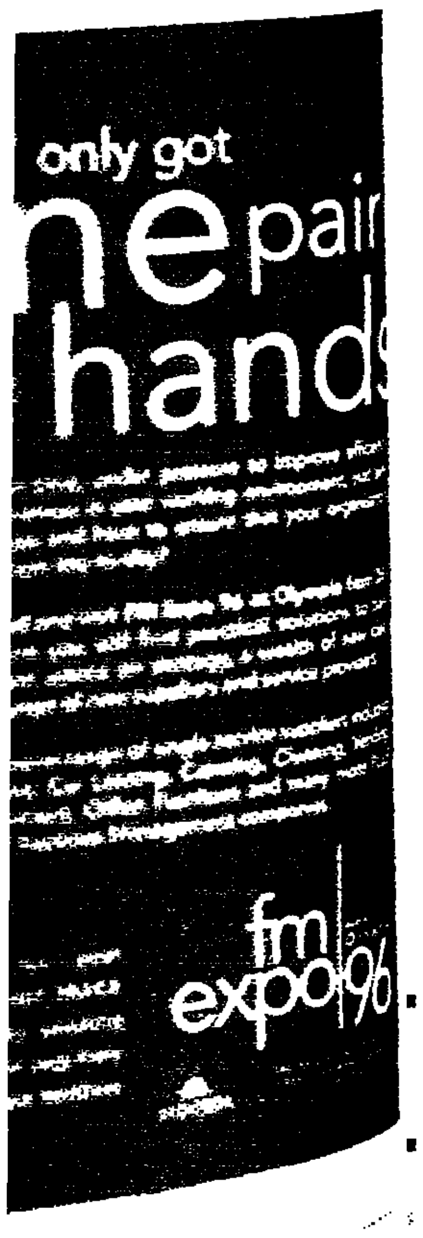


HUNT FOR THE MISSING MILLIONS: PART FOUR

The toys and trappings of a tycoon

The helicopter took off and vanished into the clouds

Melvyn Marckus on how the *administrators* homed in on Maxwell's baubles and pet projects

The toys, as Arthur Andersen's administrators affectionately refer to them, included the *Lady Ghislaine*, two executive Gulfstream jets and a *helicopter*.

Robert Maxwell's helicopter, a twin Squirrel, was *traditionally parked on the* roof of Maxwell House in London's New Fetter Lane. Peter Tuch, *project managing* the administration, harboured misgivings.

There was little evidence to suggest that Maxwell's private interests had any right to use the MCC building. More to the point, the "private side" owed funds to MCC. Would Price Waterhouse, MCC's administrators, dare to seize the gleaming blue and white toy that sported a red MGN lion? Under the circumstances, the practitioner *(it takes one to* know one) decided to transfer the helicopter to the vicinity of Heathrow.

From his eighth floor office in Arthur Andersen's Surrey Street headquarters, John Talbot, masterminding recovery operations, enjoyed a clear view of Maxwell House. Talbot knew of Tuch's concerns *but was unaware of the pending* transfer.

Tales are still told of how Talbot looked up from his desk and watched, horrified, as one of his precious assets took off and vanished *into the* clouds. Fearing a hi-jack, the *speed* of Talbot's descent to Tuch's office broke all records. Interest in Maxwell's Squirrel did not break all records and the chopper was finally sold for some £250,000 in the autumn of 1992.

The *Lady Ghislaine*, named after Maxwell's youngest daughter, was one of the *media mogul's best-known* assets. When MCC launched its $2.35 billion takeover bid for Macmillan Inc, the US publishing house, in 1988, Maxwell chose the yacht as the venue for a press conference. To guarantee an audience, the Cap'n jetted half a dozen journalists out of Heathrow to Bastia, on the Corsican coast, *where the 180 ft yacht was* moored. Maxwell depicted MCC as a "white knight", rescuing the publishing house from the ruthless clutches of Robert Bass, a Texas investor. Journalists, padding around the decks in stockinged feet, noted this. They also noted that the *Lady Ghislaine* was linked by fax, telephone and satellite *to numerous* parts of the Maxwell empire: parts that others at sea might not *reach. Deck phones were pro*grammed to merchant banks in New York and London. *Another line* connected Maxwell with the *Daily Mirror* newsroom from where, he let it be known, he could receive a copy of the newspaper's front page at the same time as the editor.

Maxwell bought the yacht for £15 million from the family of Adnan Khashoggi, the arms dealer, in 1987. Distractions from the front page of the *Daily Mirror* included a gymnasium, a disco, a glass-bottomed Jacuzzi on the sun deck, whirlpools and a cinema. When the administrators *inherited the yacht it* was moored in Palma, de Majorca, running up costs of around *$70,000 a month. Steve* Peacock, an accountant, was dispatched, with a lawyer, to ensure the vessel was secure. To Peacock's dismay, the yacht yielded up few of Maxwell's secrets, despite the presence of two Chubb safes.

Neither Martin Fishman nor his colleagues were experienced in the disposal of yachts, particularly those chartered by the likes of Frank Sinatra. In the event, it was decided to *transfer the Lady Ghislaine to* Antibes, in the South of France, and market her through Camper and Nicholson, the brokers. Given that Maxwell had spent his last hours aboard the boat, the administrators were warned that little interest could be expected from the superstitious Japanese and Chinese. *This proved* correct.

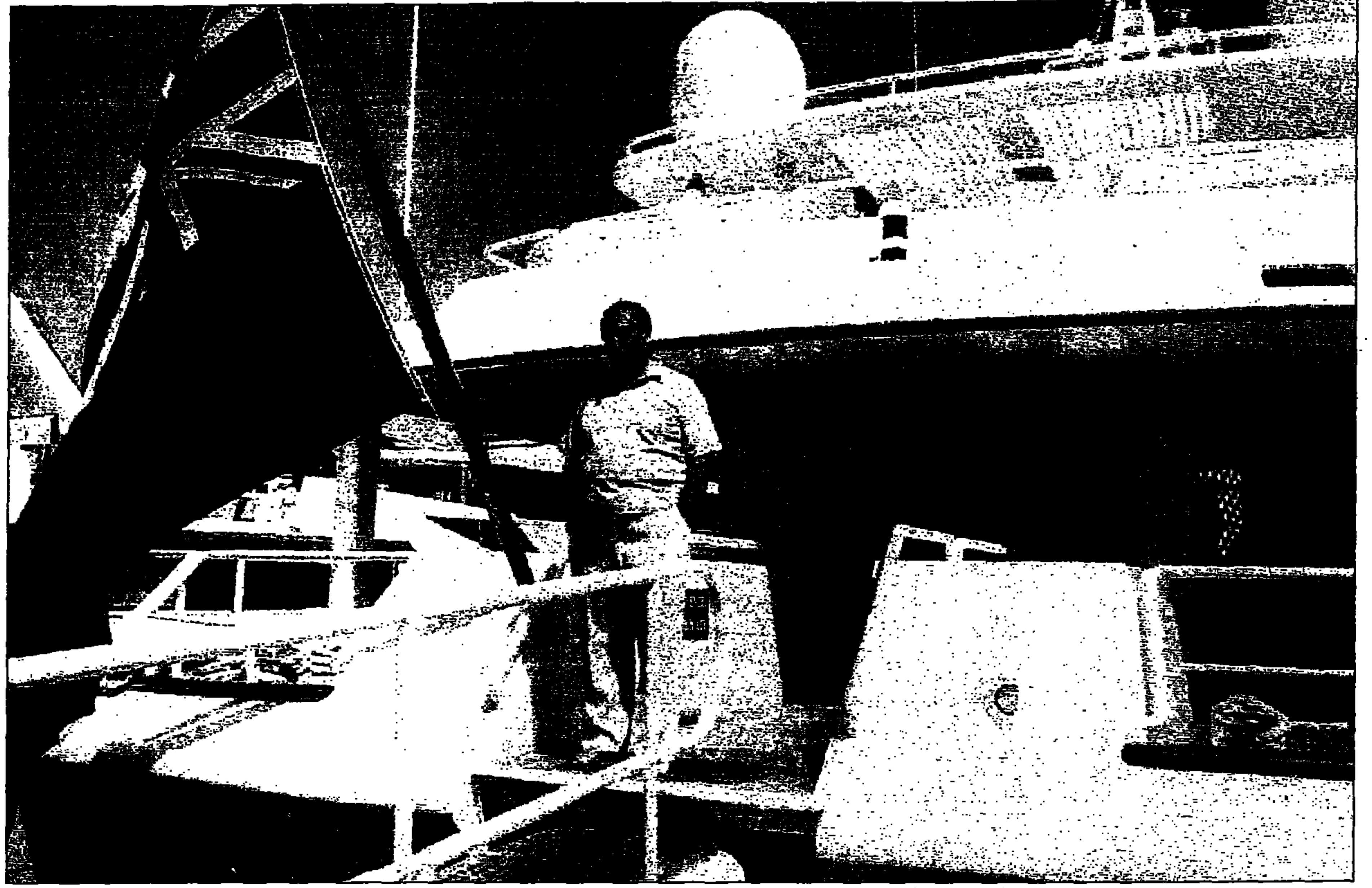
The John Bannenburg creation, built by the Dutch *Amels yard*, proved the subject of a Camper and Nicholson brochure, complete with 24 glossy colour *photographs*. Camper and Nicholson objected *strongly* to a photo in the window of a rival shiproker's Cowes office. The caption read: "Guard rail mended."

Fishman recalls "considerable interest" complicated by the fact that, because principals invariably wanted to remain anonymous, negotia*tions had to be conducted* through intermediaries.

The yacht, originally put up for *sale* at a "guideline" price of $19.75 million, is reputed to have been sold to a Saudi businessman for nearer $12 million. Arthur Andersen, bound and gagged by confidentiality agreements, refuse to be drawn on *these details*.

When Tuch asked Maxwell's pilot why his former chief kept two jets, he was informed that the Gulfstream GII was a spare, used if the GIV was under repair. "Mr Maxwell didn't like to be without his plane." The GIV, valued at some $20 million, was perceived as the Rolls-Royce of executive jets, *not* least by its owner. Cleaners were encouraged to "buff" this *particular toy*.

The GIV is thought to have been sold (complete with confi*dentiality agreements) to* a South American company for close on the $20 million asking price. The GII, having reached its "sell by" date, is believed to have gone to a US broker for something less than the $3 million asking price.



The Cap'n aboard the *Lady Ghislaine*. He flew journalists out to the 180ft yacht, moored off Corsica, to launch MCC's $2.35 million bid for Macmillan Inc

Unpaid employees helped to keep The European's presses rolling

Martin Fishman, one of Arthur Andersen's four adminis*trators, found himself* contemplating the plight of *The European* on Thursday, December 5, 1991. This pan-European venture was one of Robert Maxwell's pet projects, launched with characteristic razzmatazz in the spring of 1990.

Fishman's first tête-à-tête was with Ian Maxwell, *chairman of the loss-making enterprise*. What Fishman wanted to know was: could *The European* stand alone amid the corporate debris and continue to publish? The essence of Ian Maxwell's reply was "no". *The European* was short of cash and would not be able to meet its salary obligations. *Mirror Group Newspapers* provided the production facilities that were crucial to the newspaper's survival. Further inquiries revealed that Robert Maxwell had poured some £50 million into *The European*, where losses were running at £1 million a month on a circulation of 250,000. Against this backdrop, the *directors agreed to petition* for administration.

Fishman's next tête-à-tête *took place that evening with* John Bryant, editor of *The European*, and now deputy editor of *The Times*. Fishman recalls a tense gathering with half a dozen senior journalists in Bryant's office. The issue for Friday, December 6, had come out, but a question mark hung over the next week's edition. Fishman explained that any staff retained by the administrators would be paid, but drastic cost cuts were *required. Bryant decided to* shelve the Elan section of the newspaper. Urgent talks with MGN saw printing operations abandoned in France and the US. Production was confined to the UK and Germany.

Bryant spent the weekend grappling with the almost insurmountable problem of *how to carry out the necessary* staff cuts and still produce a newspaper. On Monday, Bryant convinced Fishman that the newspaper could not be brought out without contribu*tions from many of the jour*nalists under the guillotine. It would appear only if the staff agreed to work without pay. The message, delivered by Bryant and Fishman at a hastily convened meeting, was that survival was possible if the paper remained on the street. There would be no pay, jobs would be lost, but some *might be saved if The European* was kept alive.

Fishman acknowledges that Bryant's speech marked a turning point. "It was a dramatic moment. The troops *rallied round. That was when* the mood changed, the adrenalin started to flow."

He adds: "We *had to* complete four sides of a square. To save the paper, we needed the journalists, the production facility, the distribution system, and the advertising operation. If one fell, the paper fell."

Numerous problems dogged *production of the December* 13 issue, not least a threat by certain freelance journalists, who had not been paid for earlier work, to issue an injunction if their copy was *used. Although the 84th issue* of *The European* appeared, fears mounted that it would prove the *last. Bryant left to* join *The Times* and Fishman made 145 staff redundant.

Ambushed by journalists and photographers on the evening of December 12, Fishman declared: "If the paper had not come out, we *would not be in a position to* negotiate. We are still hopeful of a sale." At this point, talks with an interested party started to progress, a development that encouraged *Fishman to give a green light* for the December 20 issue. No issue was envisaged for December 27, *a holiday period* that served to give *The European* a breathing space.

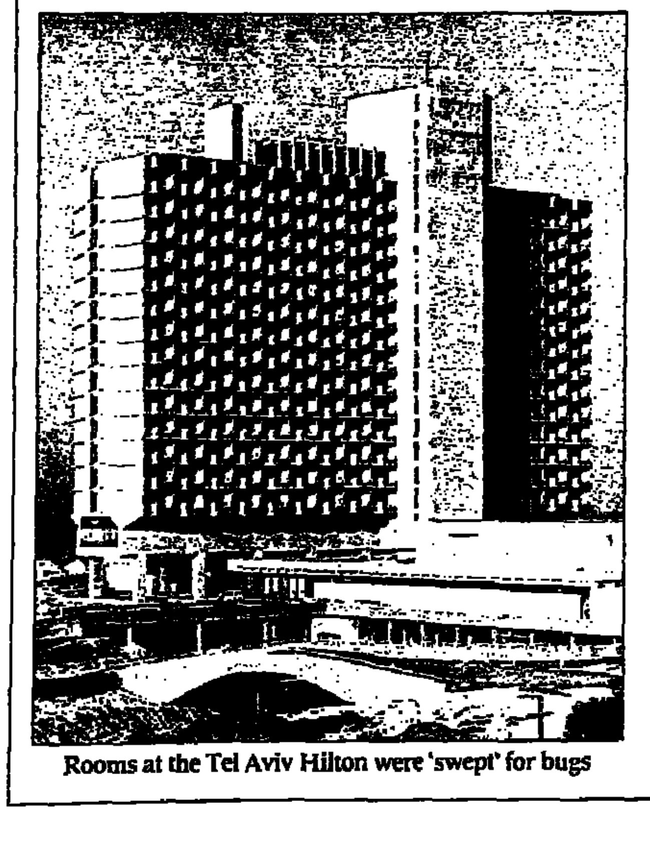
With costs significantly reduced, the loss was now "manageable". On New Year's Eve, the administrators, on Fishman's advice, *guaranteed production of the* next four issues. This offered potential purchasers a running start.

Days later, on Friday, January 2, the phone rang in Fishman's office. The message, from Greg McLeod, Fishman's manager, was: "I've got someone downstairs who wants to buy." "Is he *serious?" retorted Fishman*. "He's got a banker's draft in his pocket and a lawyer by his side," came the reply. Other interested parties were informed that a deal was in the offing. Later, Fishman departed to Allen & Overy's City offices to work through the night on a contract of sale — signed at 8am on Saturday.

Enter the Barclay *brothers* — David and Frederick — as the new proprietors of *The European*. In keeping with their low-profile image, the Barclays, who reside in Monte Carlo, have never divulged the price paid for *The European*. Speculation has it that the twins, owners of the Ritz and London's Howard Hotel bought their first newspaper free of debt for significantly less than £5 million.

Martin Fishman, left, and John Bryant, then editor of The European, on the night the 84th edition was brought out

The long goodbye to Ma'ariv in Israel



Rooms at the Tel Aviv Hilton were 'swept' for bugs

It took Alan *Katz*, a partner in Arthur *Andersen's Leeds office, one day in Israel to* decide that operation *Ma'ariv* required reinforcements to the four-man contingent *that had boarded the first flight from* Heathrow to Tel Aviv on Thursday, December 5, 1991. Hours before the firm's annual jamboree on the Saturday, Richard Fleming and two colleagues from the Leeds office received a summons to the Middle East. The trio wined and dined at Ripley Castle until 1am, when they bowed out in order to catch a 7am flight to Tel Aviv. They let it be *known that they would be away for a fortnight*. In the event, the assignment lasted three months.

Maxwell's "private side", via Maxwell Media Trust, held an 85 per cent stake in the Ma'ariv Modi'in Publishing House, which controlled *Ma'ariv*, Israel's second largest daily newspaper after *Yediot Aharonot*. All in all, the business encompassed some 20 offshoots with a turnover *of $70 million and net assets of $15 million. It took* Robert Maxwell two years to secure his 85 per cent grip on Ma'ariv Modi'in and absolute control was not clinched until September 1991 — a matter of weeks before his death. Maxwell's original $30 *million purchase* price had been agreed after a 40-minute meeting. Ma'ariv's managers and various outside shareholders held the outstanding *15 per* cent stake.

Katz's priority was to protect the business and place a value on it. With net assets of $15 million, the 85 per cent stake commanded a face value of $12.75 million. Ma'ariv possessed significant *potential, but was seriously under-capitalised* and urgently required a cash injection of some $10 million.

Industrial espionage came to light soon after Katz set up base. Workmen appeared to fix phones and lavatories. This rang alarm bells, not least because such facilities had shown no visible signs of malfunction. A security firm was called in to "sweep" the rooms at the Tel Aviv Hilton and the team's office on a daily basis. Several microphones and cameras were uncovered. Katz recalls how staff were regularly followed as they *left the hotel or went to lunch*. More alarming, for the Tel Aviv team, was a series of intimidating phone calls to their families in the UK.

News of Maxwell's death had plunged Ma'ariv into a chapter of power-plays. Management, or associated factions, were variously considering a management buyout, attempting to launch a new newspaper, grappling with a cashflow crisis and negotiating with strike-threatening unions.

A blast of media publicity greeted Katz & Co's arrival and several parties expressed interest. Conrad Black, chairman of Hollinger, the Canadian newspaper combine, made no secret of *his ambition to add Ma'ariv to the English* language *Jerusalem Post* that he had acquired in 1989. Dov Judkovsky, editor of Ma'ariv, and Aharon Dovrat, a director — both of whom had been close to Maxwell — spearheaded one of several Israeli consortiums. Also to the fore was the Israel Land Development Company, controlled by Ya'akov Nimrodi, the former Israeli military *attache in Iran who featured in the* Irangate arms controversy.

Ma'ariv's banks — owed some $30 million — were eager to improve their respective positions, not least because many had relied, in part, on guarantees from other Israeli companies associated with Maxwell. Discussions revealed that Maxwell had negatively pledged his shares to the banks, a manoeuvre that meant the banks *effectively enjoyed a right of veto over a potential* purchaser of the 85 per cent share block.

To complicate matters further, a document, dated one week after Maxwell's death, came to light. This purportedly recorded a meeting held two weeks before Maxwell's death at which additional pre-emption rights appeared to have been granted to third parties. Katz recalls how, when certain inconsistencies were queried, the letter was abruptly withdrawn.

The most serious problem related to the pre-emption rights of certain shareholders. Interested parties, with no shareholding, were reluctant to carry out due diligence for fear that, *if they* made an acceptable offer, they would be ambushed by a shareholder with pre-emption *rights. Late nights with lawyers*, examining Israeli legislation and the pre-emption agreements, finally yielded a scheme designed to force the hands of holders of pre-emption rights and the external bidders. The accountants created a "newco" called Marnline, a *subsidiary of* Maxwell Media Trust, as a vehicle to launch an $18 million offer for the 85 per cent share block. *This would set the* clock ticking for shareholders to exercise their pre-emption rights.

This ingenious device, greeted with not a little indignation, served its purpose and duly promoted cross-party discussions. Late one February evening, Fleming telephoned Katz *in the UK to* seek final approval to strike a deal. Shortly after, reports broke that Nimrodi, working in harness with *Shimon Cheifetz*, *Ma'ariv's managing* director who held an 8 per cent stake, had outbid Black with an offer of around $14.5 million.

❛ Members of the team were regularly followed and intimidating phone calls were made to their families ❜

Tomorrow: the final part of Hunt for the Missing Millions

Losses across the board

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3090¾	2137½	ABN-AMRO	3018¾	− 62½	4.2	11.2
863	413	Abbey Nat	654	− 2	3.7	13.1
395	250	Allied Irish	380	− 3	3.8	11.1
321	190	Aus New Z	317	− 4	5.1	.
4425	2591¼	Bank America	4030	− 62¾	...	...
307½	181½	Bank Scotland	300½	− 2½	2.6	13.3
832½	557½	Barclays	778	+ 3	3.8	10.6
486	288	Bk of Ireland	482	...	3.5	9.7
525	418	Cater Allen	474		7.9	7.8
4718¾	2450	Citicorp	4631¼	− 6¼	...	
340½	218¼	Close Bros	337	...	3.2	14.9
£162¾	£129¼	Commerzbk	£159¾	+ 3¼	3.5	..
1376	993¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1190¾	...	0.4	...
3231¼	2775	Deutsche Bk	3018¾	− 48¾	2.4	...
861¼	569¾	Espirito Santo	700¾	...	6.1	8.3
1611	1138¾	Fuji Bank Y	1390¾	..	6.4	...
490	385	Gerrard Nat	471	...	6.0	15.2
257	180	Hambros	201		4.7	...
1087	589	HSBC	1078	− 8	3.3	14.0
1073	578	HSBC HK	1056	− 7	3.3	13.7
421	228	Irish Perm	421	..	3.9	9.7
463	353	Joseph (L)	453	..	5.2	15.6
152	85	King Shaxson	146	− 1	7.8	11.3
350	308	Lloyds TSB	342½	− 2½		
614	478	Nat Aust Bk	605	− 8	6.6	8.4
697	454	Nat West	688	+ 11	4.2	10.4
67	44	Rea Brothers	65		1.9	35.0
650½	373¾	Ryl Bk Scot	601	..	3.5	13.2
1476	906¾	Schroders	1335		1.3	19.0
1180	828¾	Schroders NV	1080	..	1.7	15.1
111	81	Singer & Fried	102	...	4.5	10.6
635	246	Stand Chart	618	− 4	1.8	15.6
121	70	Union	97	...	3.9	...
£147¼	[illegible]	Wells Fargo	£147¼	+ 33¼	2.1	
302	211	Westpac	302	+ 1½	4.5	..
295	200	[illegible]	270	...	5.5	16.2

MEDIA

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
490	335	Abbott Mead	474	...	2.1	28.1
310	260	Adscene	269	...	9.7	14.9
41¾	22	Anglo Gp	41¾	+ ½	..	18.7
7¾	1¾	Allied Radio	4	..	..	...
15	9	BBB Design	15	...	...	.
315	155	[illegible]	311	...	3.6	38.4
10½	4½	[illegible]	8	...	...	..

OTHER FINANCIAL

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
123	78¾	Aberdeen Tst	120	+ 2	2.6	...
101	75	BWD	86	...	8.1	14.0
78	36	[illegible]	40	..	8.1	11.3
290	148	[illegible]	290	+ 3	...	..

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
109[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 15¼% 1996	102[illegible]	...	14.88	6.07
107[illegible]	102[illegible]	Exch 13¼% 1996	102[illegible]	..	12.97	6.10
104[illegible]	103[illegible]	Conv 10% 1996	103[illegible]		9.69	5.94
101[illegible]	97[illegible]	Treas 7% 1997	101[illegible]	− [illegible]	6.91	6.03
109[illegible]	105[illegible]	Treas 13¼% 1997	107[illegible]		12.38	5.88
105[illegible]	104[illegible]	Exch 10½% 1997	104[illegible]	− [illegible]	10.04	5.94
104[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 1997	103[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.42	6.05
117[illegible]	114[illegible]	Exch 15% 1997	114½	− [illegible]	13.10	6.12
107[illegible]	102[illegible]	Exch 9¾% 1998	106[illegible]	− [illegible]	9.25	6.16
102[illegible]	98[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 1998	102[illegible]	− ⅛	7.10	6.19
100[illegible]	94[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	100[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.74	6.06
117[illegible]	114[illegible]	Treas 14% 1996-01	116[illegible]	− [illegible]	12.04	6.32
124[illegible]	120[illegible]	Treas 15½% 1998	122[illegible]	− [illegible]	12.68	6.35
114[illegible]	109[illegible]	Exch 12% 1998	114[illegible]	− [illegible]	10.51	6.40
108[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 9½% 1999	108[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.79	6.49
116[illegible]	111[illegible]	Exch 12¼% 1999	116[illegible]	− [illegible]	10.55	6.50
112[illegible]	105[illegible]	Treas 10½% 1999	111[illegible]	− [illegible]	9.40	6.51
98[illegible]	89[illegible]	Treas 6% 1999	98[illegible]	− [illegible]	6.11	6.53
112[illegible]	105[illegible]	Conv 10¼% 1999	112	− ¼	9.15	6.62
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
108[illegible]	100[illegible]	Conv 9% 2000	108[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.32	6.67
105[illegible]	96[illegible]	Treas 8% 2000	105[illegible]	− [illegible]	7.60	6.69
124[illegible]	117	Treas 13% 2000	123[illegible]	− [illegible]	10.50	6.89
114	104[illegible]	Treas 10% 2001	113[illegible]	− ¼	8.83	6.88
101[illegible]	90[illegible]	Treas 7% 2001	100[illegible]	− [illegible]	6.98	6.85
114[illegible]	103[illegible]	Treas 9¾% 2002	113[illegible]	− ¼	8.56	7.05
105[illegible]	94[illegible]	Treas 8% 2003	105	− ¼	7.62	7.10
117[illegible]	105[illegible]	Treas 10% 2003	116[illegible]	− ¼	8.59	7.15
119[illegible]	110[illegible]	Treas 11½% 2001-04	119[illegible]	− [illegible]	9.65	6.98
93[illegible]	79[illegible]	Fund 3½% 1999-04	83[illegible]	− [illegible]	4.26	6.03
114[illegible]	103[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2004	113[illegible]	− ¼	8.34	7.31
96[illegible]	86[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 2004	96[illegible]	− [illegible]	7.01	7.31
108[illegible]	97[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2005	108	− [illegible]	7.87	7.33
114[illegible]	103[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2005	114	− ¼	8.39	7.37
131[illegible]	119[illegible]	Treas 12½% 2003-05	130[illegible]	− [illegible]	9.58	7.38
101[illegible]	94[illegible]	Treas 7½% 2006	101[illegible]	− [illegible]	7.42	7.34
103[illegible]	92[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2006	102[illegible]	− [illegible]	7.55	7.36
104[illegible]	93[illegible]	Treas 8% 2002-06	103[illegible]	− [illegible]	7.72	7.50
125[illegible]	113[illegible]	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	124[illegible]	− ¼	9.45	7.25
108[illegible]	97[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2007	108[illegible]	− [illegible]	7.88	7.43
138[illegible]	126[illegible]	Treas 13½% 2004-08	137[illegible]	− [illegible]	9.82	7.31
112[illegible]	101[illegible]	Treas 9% 2008	112[illegible]	− ¼	8.03	7.59
104[illegible]	94	Treas 8% 2009	103[illegible]	− ¼	7.71	7.55
LONGS (over 15 years)						
88[illegible]	79[illegible]	Treas 6¼% 2010	87[illegible]	− [illegible]	7.19	7.64
112[illegible]	101[illegible]	Conv 9% 2011	112[illegible]	− ¼	8.03	7.65
113[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 9% 2012	112[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.01	7.66
82[illegible]	72[illegible]	Treas 5½% 2008-12	82[illegible]	− [illegible]	6.70	7.39
103[illegible]	93[illegible]	Treas 8% 2013	103[illegible]	− [illegible]	7.76	7.87
101[illegible]	91[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	100[illegible]	− [illegible]	7.71	7.80
104[illegible]	93[illegible]	Treas 8% 2015	103[illegible]	− [illegible]	7.76	7.88
111[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 2017	110[illegible]	− [illegible]	7.98	7.74
141[illegible]	127[illegible]	Exch 12% 2013-17	140[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.55	7.77
UNDATED						
46[illegible]	40[illegible]	War Ln 3½%	45[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.76	...
32[illegible]	28[illegible]	Treas 2½%	32[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.77	...
50[illegible]	45[illegible]	Consols 4%	50[illegible]	− [illegible]	7.94	.
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
215[illegible]	201[illegible]	Treas IL 2% 1996	215[illegible]	+ [illegible]	..	2.00
113[illegible]	105[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	113[illegible]	+ [illegible]	1.11	2.38
179[illegible]	165[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2001	179[illegible]	...	2.72	3.24
178[illegible]	161[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2003	178	− [illegible]	2.94	3.34
116[illegible]	108[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	116[illegible]	− [illegible]	2.94	3.31
185[illegible]	169[illegible]	Treas IL 2% 2006	185[illegible]	...	3.09	3.37
167[illegible]	152[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2009	167[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.19	3.43
173[illegible]	157[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2011	173[illegible]		3.25	3.47
143	129[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2013	143	+ [illegible]	3.30	3.49
152[illegible]	137[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2016	152[illegible] †	+ [illegible]	3.36	3.54
146[illegible]	131[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2020	146[illegible]	...	3.43	3.58
122[illegible]	109[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2024	121[illegible]	− [illegible]	3.42	3.56
120[illegible]	109[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	120[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.43	3.57

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AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
01805 259 780

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Grofund Amer	198.20	210.80	+ 0.40	0.42
Grofund Equity	277.20	294.90	- 0.80	1.07
Grofund Euro	251.40	266.10	- 1.40	7.14
Grofund Eqty Bal	128.30	132.90	...	5.14
Grofund Gilt	77.87	80.20	- 0.00	4.74
Grofund Japan	178.70	180.10	- 1.00	..

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
General Acc	633.40	673.90	- 3.00	2.53
General Inc	544.20	573.00	- 2.40	2.83
UK Growth Acc	428.80	456.20	- 1.70	2.73
UK Growth Inc	355.00	380.00	- 1.10	2.73
Higher Inc Acc	785.80	836.00	- 2.80	4.00
Higher Inc Inc	437.20	465.20	- 1.80	4.65
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	208.90	220.70	- 1.00	5.53
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	95.67	101.40	- 0.50	5.53
Nth America	334.80	356.20	+ 3.00	
Europe	330.10	351.20	- 3.00	0.70
Brit Growth	85.63	91.10	- 0.38	2.88
Brit Fedeatn Acc	114.20	121.50	- 0.40	4.53
Brit Fedeatn Inc	79.94	85.05	- 0.21	4.53
Global Opps	80.33	104.50	- 0.30	0.38
Balanced Acc	62.05	66.00	- 0.23	2.73
Balanced Inc	59.38	63.19	- 0.21	2.73
Japan Acc	47.75	50.80	- 0.24	
Pac Basin Acc	417.38	443.90	+ 0.30	0.90

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilts & Fixed Int	133.30	141.40†	- 0.30	7.07
High Inc Equity	179.30	191.80†	+ 0.20	4.30
Worldwide Bond	298.70	316.10	- 0.20	4.43
American Growth	340.70	364.10†		0.80
Asian Pacific	347.00	371.10	+ 0.80	0.11
Assets & Earnings	294.00	312.80		2.73
Euro Capital Acc	166.30	177.80	- 1.40	0.58
Extra Inc	44.84	47.40†	- 0.02	6.45
General	273.40	290.80		2.86
Global Opps	62.58	66.55	- 0.11	0.45
Japan	127.80	136.50	- 0.50	
Managed Inc	48.17	51.24†	- 0.05	4.54
Mastertrust	160.90	172.10	- 0.20	1.42
US Emerging Cos	173.80	184.90	+ 1.50	..
Ethical	76.69	81.50	- 0.05	2.49
International	133.50	142.00	- 0.30	0.72
Dividend & Growth	65.82	70.87†	- 0.04	4.33

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0708

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Cazenove Portfolio	96.71	103.13†	- 0.15	2.47
American Portfolio	113.99	121.02	- 0.07	0.94
European Portfolio	116.17	122.84	- 0.52	0.47
High Income	52.06	52.96	- 0.13	6.00
Japanese Portfolio	70.21	74.84†	- 0.34	...
Pacific Portfolio	161.20	173.34	+ 0.18	1.38
UK Inc & Growth	90.96	97.14	- 0.20	2.91
Utility & Bond	58.07	59.72	- 0.38	6.54

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Inv Fund	728.34	799.34	...	4.36
Fxd Int Sec	158.55	159.19	...	6.96

COIF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Investment Inc	728.09	739.09		4.38
Investment Acc	932.47	932.96		
Fixed Int Inc	128.81	129.33		6.83
Fixed Int Acc	219.17	220.05	...	...

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Beckman Intl	95.72	101.82	...	2.94
Beck Bio-Tech	48.85	52.35†	...	...
Acorn Ethical Tst	163.56	177.91†	...	0.63
City Fin Assets	77.77	81.87	..	2.04
City Fin America	108.93	114.38	...	...
City Fin Intl	91.84	96.44	...	0.85
City Fin Japan	154.83	162.59†	...	
Friars Hse Cap	302.00	327.27†	...	2.23
Friars Hse Inc	200.05	212.83		4.17
Buckley Wide Gth	135.06	143.16		
Falmouth Cap Gth	145.04	153.73	...	
Falmouth Intl	157.04	165.31	...	...
J Sml Inc/Gth Inc	56.38	58.20†	...	1.59

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Emerging Markets	58.93	62.52	+ 0.31	..

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0800 373 393

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gwth	73.44	78.13	+ 0.32	0.02
Dragon Growth	74.45	79.62	+ 0.10	0.55
Equity High Inc	88.46	96.23	- 0.43	3.98
-do- Accum	126.44	134.51	- 0.60	3.98
Extra Income Inc	26.85	28.27†	- 0.04	7.08
Extra Income Acc	28.26	29.77	- 0.05	7.08

JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 261010

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Sector Value Inc	101.10	106.60	- 0.30	4.69
Sector Value Gwth	101.40	107.00	- 0.40	2.24

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
0171 581 3020

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
World Health	211.60	225.60	+ 1.90	..
Income #	193.41	205.75†	+ 1.03	4.16
UK Growth	75.67	80.48†	+ 0.31	0.43
International	83.95	89.29†	- 0.42	0.07
Ecology	95.70	101.90	+ 0.22	1.05
European	152.46	162.18	- 0.04	..
Far Eastern	317.90	338.10	- 1.80	.

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
N Amer Growth	125.76	133.80	+ 0.09	0.84
Special Sits Growth	24.79	26.36	- 0.03	2.16
UK Growth	426.28	453.49	- 0.65	2.71
-do- Accum	571.36	607.82	- 0.87	2.71

NW JOINT INVESTORS LTD
01620 825867

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Fd #	1446.70	1472.50	...	2.90
Income #	1042.50	1060.80†	..	4.00

MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 222 4242

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Maldon General	158.70	163.00	..	3.71

For Manulife see Canada Life

"THE OMEGA SETS
THE STANDARD BY
WHICH ALL EXECUTIVE
CARS MUST BE
JUDGED"

THE OMEGA FROM VAUXHALL

KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS
Dealers: 0171 956 7354

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	102.50	106.00†	+ 0.10	7.26
Gilt Yield	121.30	128.00†	+ 0.10	6.94
Global Income	232.70	247.60	+ 0.20	3.50
High Yield	149.00	158.50†	+ 0.30	5.65
-do- Accum	474.30	504.60†	+ 1.20	5.65
Smlr Cos Div	57.56	61.23	+ 0.09	2.80
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smlr Cos	131.30	139.70†	+ 1.60	..
Asian Growth	358.50	381.40	- 0.10	0.22
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Source: Finstat

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return). † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; ... No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital; @ Exit Charge.

■ MUSIC 1

A violinist for all seasons: Gidon Kremer brings a feast of fiddle music to London

■ MUSIC 2

Robert King brings the period touch to a programme of Italian Baroque rarities

THE TIMES ARTS

■ VISUAL ART

Will Christopher Frayling, the 'Kenneth Clark of pop culture', get the top job at the RCA?

■ MIME

The Ralf Ralf brothers find much to be surreal about in international diplomacy

Sounds with a bite

FANTASTIC. The experimental double act Ralf Ralf is electrifyingly dextrous. Brothers Jonathan and Barnaby Stone seamlessly meld silent gesture, gibberish and gymnastics, political satire, percussive rhythms and *a cappella* chanting. *The Summit*, their razor-sharp and very funny vision of international negotiations — first inspired by the thawing Cold War but of startling current pertinence — is to be made into a film. I can't wait.

Meanwhile, I shall be dashing back to the BAC for replays of the live version, part of the London International Mime Festival and BAC's strong Physical And Visual Theatre Season.

Stone and Stone, rivalling each other in grey suits, hair slicked for the diplomatic fray, address us from behind matching lecterns. They mimic the rhetorical tricks of political speechmakers with merciless precision: the chatty kick-off; the ironic pause with raised eyebrow; the ranting crescendo; the sudden cut to hushed visionary tones. Communist or capitalist, Labour or Tory, these arch-enemies are talking gobbledegook. And yet we understand them perfectly.

The Summit
BAC, SW11

The scenes are snapshots, more like musical movements in fact. At one point, the two men circle their long conference table, approaching each other warily and backing away in what might be a childish game, a cockfight or a courtship dance.

Elsewhere the slamming of fists on the table develops into a complex drumming duet of rapping knuckles and slapping palms. Foot stamping, Romany-style or just plain furious, intertwines aggression with the suggestion of close cultural roots. The men harmonise, but competitively.

Ralf Ralf's work is not just beautifully phrased and polished. *The Summit* invests its performance styles (mime, nonsense-speak or music) with pointed meaning, attaining far-reaching social and political significance. This place might be Bosnia, Ireland, anywhere. Flabbergastingly skilful, the gibberish embraces flickers of heated Italian that blur into Indian.

The party-political speechmakers shift into incanting priests, Catholic or Muslim. Out of an African tribal chorus, its pulse built from breaths, rises a Celtic tune.

Lastly there is the silence. A vast sense of bleakness, as well as peace, wells up when these two men stop speaking and go to stand in their far corners, caught under narrow beams of light, apparently listening for orders from on high.

KATE BASSETT

Violinist Gidon Kremer is to explore his world in a special series of concerts. **John Allison** reports

The innovator takes his bow

Gidon Kremer is one of the outstanding violinists of our day — and much more. His distinctive artistry and the way in which he has led music in new directions are testimony to a holistic approach rare among even his finest colleagues. On Saturday he appears in London for the first part of the Philharmonia Orchestra's Gidon Kremer Series, four concerts of exceptional interest that will nevertheless reveal only a few aspects of his repertory.

Spaced comfortably over the next few months — the series continues until early June — the concerts also give little idea of what, by Kremer's own admission, is his "crazy life".

When we met in Lille one afternoon last week he was still unsure of where in the city he would be playing the Brahms Violin Concerto that evening. He had arrived from Strasbourg having performed the same work the night before, and was moving on to Paris for a chamber music concert the following day. He spends ten months of the year travelling and seems to thrive on it: "To do so much wonderful music is refreshing," he says.

> ‘In real music you can't cover up your soul’

Kremer, who was born in Riga into a Jewish-German-Swedish family, finds it hard to establish where home really is. "I should consider myself somewhat Latvian: having spent the first 18 years of my life there, and having played my first concert there. But I spent 15 years in Moscow, and when I was first allowed out to play in the West I was often looked upon as a Soviet violinist, whatever that meant. I admit that Russian culture and the Russian 'soul' became very dear to me. I give all credit to my education in Moscow, to my many colleagues there who influenced my way in music."

He gives credit above all to his violin teacher for eight years in Moscow, the great David Oistrakh, who influenced both his musical thinking and his mastery of the instrument. "I was very lucky to be so close to such a man. The main thing I learned from Oistrakh was that you have to be well-equipped technically. It doesn't help just to be musically gifted — without the 'apparatus' of playing, you can't convert feelings or thoughts into sounds.

"I also learnt that a great artist can be generous with his ideas. Oistrakh was never dogmatic, and he established a good rapport with his many different students on the basis of their individual talents. I think he gained confidence in the way I developed, even though as a musician and violinist I was very different to him."

Perhaps it was from Oistrakh that Kremer inherited his broad artistic outlook. "Many aspects of music interest me, but no more than the visual arts and drama. And I'm not a violin freak. I used to listen to recordings of violinists — it was important to hear someone like Heifetz reaching for more than just efficiency or beauty, reaching out for something divine — but I don't any longer. I can't tell you anything about my colleagues!"

Kremer must know, though, that he has one of the biggest repertories in the business, stretching from new works back to before Bach. "I look into the museum of music and realise that much of it is still very contemporary. I'm not on terms with 'authentic' playing, because to me what matters is original music-making, and unfortunately this is more seldom to be found than people playing on original instruments. It's not the method of producing art that is important, but the results."

He devotes much time to chamber music, and admits he will "use any occasion to do so". Indeed, two regular partners — the pianist Martha Argerich and cellist Mischa Maisky — will be joining him for a concert of three Russian trios presented as part of the Philharmonia's series.

There is also his chamber music festival at Lockenhaus in Austria, which serves as a forum for young artists who then tour under the title Kremerata Musica. Deutsche Grammophon, his record company, issued the first Kremerata Musica disc only last week.

Kremer's concerts with the Philharmonia will include both the Brahms and Tchaikovsky concertos, but also music by several composers from the former Soviet Union. "I'm so attached to music of the past that I'll never allow myself to be labelled a 20th-century specialist. But I think it is my duty not just to be a customer of the works museum. I have to follow the pattern of my teacher and many others in keeping music alive by making all possible ties with today's composers. And I don't like to restrict myself to one style — I find my disappointments and pleasures in all kinds of music."

Saturday's performance is to be preceded by a free concert in which Kremer will present two works dear to him: a double concerto for violin and piano entitled *Nevertheless* by the Latvian Georgs Pelecis, a friend from schooldays, and *V and V*, a piece by the Georgian Giya Kancheli for violin and taped voice. Kancheli re-appears in the final concert with his more substantial *Lament*. Schnittke is represented by his Violin Concerto No 4, one of several works he has written for Kremer.

"If I was looking only for accessible works, I would go into the pop scene," says Gidon Kremer

There are intriguing rarities, too, including Stravinsky's arrangements of two pieces from *Sleeping Beauty* which feature a solo violin, and Kremer's own arrangements of arias from Arthur Lourié's unperformed Pushkin opera, *The Blackamoor of Peter the Great*, a work he is keen to promote.

Kremer describes the Pelecis and Kancheli pieces as "sincere and very accessible — although that is not the point. If I was looking only for accessible works, I would go into the pop scene. But audiences have to be encouraged to lose their reservations about new music.

"Contemporary music should not just be for snobs," he continues. "Of course, some composers are using music for self-promotion, but in real music you can't cover up your soul.

"Whatever your style, if you have something to say it will be sensed — and if you have nothing to say that will be sensed too."

● *The Gidon Kremer Series begins at the Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4206) on Saturday*

POP

Brats grow up at last

THE label "alternative" that's supposedly sewn inside the shirt collars of Britain's current modern rock crop grows less appropriate. The rise of Britpop in 1995 led, as ever, to yesterday's alternative becoming today's mainstream.

The effect on the Brat Awards — introduced by the *New Musical Express* to counter the complacency of the bigger, fatter Brits — has been to remove the bullets from their gun. Many of the bands nominated for the alternative gongs are also in line for the establishment awards. Brats can be Brits.

Not that such nuances have been bothering the multitudes in the towns at which the *NME*'s Bratbus has pulled in. The tour has presented a series of excellent four-band shows, with the Astoria hosting six days' worth of guitars-with-attitude from, doubtless, some of next year's Brit nominees. It culminated with a four-course blow-out featuring Fluffy, Heavy Stereo, the Cardigans and the Bluetones.

The Bluetones
Astoria, W1

Perhaps the best way to address the gaucheries of the main act is to address the Bluetones as one of the bands most likely to, and not as the finished article.

Just last June, they were another set of guitar-popsters-in-waiting, but the industry's voracity for new talent now allows little incubation for fledgling creativity. Two Top 40 singles later, the Bluetones are on the eve of a first album and their own 24-date tour, which is hardly the moment to start growing up.

Thus were revealed four young pretenders with no apparent interest in presentation or pacing. But the album, *Expecting to Fly*, out on February 12, does enough to suggest that their songwriting skills are ripening. Meanwhile, their jangling cheerfulness will see them prominent in next weekend's chart with the third single, *Slight Return*.

Too melodious to be Brats, but that should not rule out a shot at the bigger prize.

PAUL SEXTON

Let's hear it for the bland

THE Purcell tercentenary is over and the King's Consort is set to explore other terrain: a series of recordings of Vivaldi's sacred music is planned, and Italian composers dominated their programme at the Wigmore Hall. Robert King and his Consort have always belonged to the polite school of Purcell performance, but will they be able to bring more passion to the Italian masters of the Baroque?

On the basis of this concert, the answer would appear to be no. Some years ago they might have got away with performances like these, with the blandness being laid at the composers' door. But now the competition is much tougher, and not only from British chamber groups with real interpretative flair like Romanesca or the Palladian Ensemble. The Italians have discovered historically-aware performance and are bringing a new and vibrant approach to the music of their past. Concerto Italiano, L'Europa Galante and the Accademia Bizantina are now interpreting this repertory with formidable panache, bringing to it a sense of conviction that was lacking from this concert.

CONCERT

King's Consort
Wigmore Hall

Hundreds of cantatas by Alessandro Scarlatti survive, and while it would be fair to say that his inspiration was less consistent than that of Bach or Handel, he could, nevertheless, compose some very fine music. Take, for instance, the astonishingly expressive aria "Infelici Miei Lumi" from *Su Le Sponde Del Tebro*, or the lyrical concluding Pastorale from the Christmas cantata *O Di Betlemme Altera*. Here the former was marred by sour intonation in the violins, while the latter, for want of any real shaping, lost its way like the sheep it urged the shepherds to forsake. In both cantatas, the soprano Deborah York was the soloist. Her bright-toned, pure voice is ideally suited to this repertory, although she needs to get more under the skin of the stylistic idiom, and the inflections of the language.

James Bowman took the solos in settings of the *Salve Regina* by Hasse and Scarlatti *fils*. Bowman's appearance never seems to change, but his voice is, sadly, beginning to lack its former sustaining power and flexibility.

The violins, still only one to a part, perked up for Geminiani's Concerto Grosso in E minor (Op 3), but elsewhere even Crispian Steele-Perkins's trumpet-playing sounded too casual. The King's Consort cannot afford to be so complacent right now.

TESS KNIGHTON

Christopher Frayling is odds-on to be the next head of the RCA — if he can fit it into his schedule. **Simon Tait** reports

ALAN WELLER

"The place has become more thoughtful": Christopher Frayling, polymath Pro-Rector of the Royal College of Art

Ideas man whose time has come

The Royal College of Art, according to Christopher Frayling, is going through a period of legato — "smooth and connected, without breaks" according to the dictionary — after a decade of staccato which included the seven-year reign of Jocelyn Stevens, when almost every head of department left the college. Frayling, the sole survivor, was widely expected to be Stevens's successor as Rector three years ago, but instead the sculptor Anthony Jones was brought in from Chicago.

Now Jones has resigned, returning to America to care for his sick son. His successor will be named by May. Frayling must be the favourite again, but he says he may not be in the running.

Much has changed since 1993 for the man Huw Wheldon once called the Kenneth Clark of pop culture. He is now Pro-Rector, which makes him head of the academic side of the college, which he loves. He is the longest-serving Arts Council member, chairman of its film and photography panel, and of the V&A board of trustees. He has also developed a more public role as the nation's cultural historian, ubiquitous on radio and television.

His radio series on Hollywood's cockeyed way with history, called *Print the Legend*, has just ended, and next month he finishes filming a four-part history of horror for BBC1. These are merely the latest in a long line of books and broadcasts on subjects ranging from films — it was he who invented the phrase "spaghetti western" — to Tutankhamun, medieval history, vampires and Byron.

And now he is tackling the RCA itself. He is behind the huge *Design of the Times* exhibition which opens at the college on February 7 to celebrate its centenary — or is it centenary-and-a-half plus a bit more? Nine years ago Frayling wrote a book called *The Royal College of Art: One Hundred and Fifty Years of Art and Design*, for the place was going for 59 years as the Government School of Design before it was renamed. "The RCA is the longest experiment in design ever," Frayling says. "Bauhaus was 1919 to 1931 and Ulm was the 1960s, but we started in 1837 and are still trying things out. The exhibition will show that in the 1980s design was becoming a lot more confident: it was a time of big ideas. In the 1990s the place has become much more thoughtful."

When the college started, design was a matter of receiving cratefuls of white, unadorned pots from Stoke and painting flowers on them. Then came Christopher Dresser, a student and lecturer at the college, whose designs presaged the Arts and Crafts Movement. In the early 20th century Charles Sargeant Jagger was the leader of popular taste, designing innumerable memorial statues after the First World War.

In 1940 the college was evacuated to Ambleside, Cumbria, where everyone became a landscape painter and the students doing their Home Guard training created sheep disguises for themselves. Later, British Pop Art was born here, and the late Mark Boxer, founder editor of *The Sunday Times Magazine*, said that the phenomenon of newspaper colour supplements was inspired by the RCA's publication, *Ark*. Then came post-modernism, and the exhibition has a typical piece from the "staccato" 1980s: a slow fan, a useless object whose virtues lie in the design notion. To illustrate the legato 1980s there is a startling electronic contraceptive, said to be more effective and safer than the Pill.

"Students are worried about the planet now, about animal rights, about their future," Frayling says. "It's a much more grown-up sort of place than it was in the 1980s. Even today, 70 per cent of the work done here is design."

● Design of the Times, *sponsored by L.G. Electronics, is at the Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (0171-584 5020) from Feb 7-March 20*

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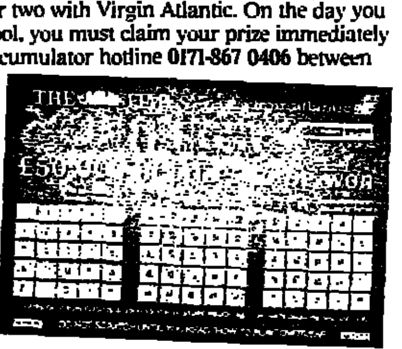


■ CHOICE 1

The Emerson String Quartet begin their Beethoven cycle

VENUE: From tonight at the Queen Elizabeth Hall

■ CHOICE 2

Antony Sher plays the painter Stanley Spencer in a new Pam Gems play

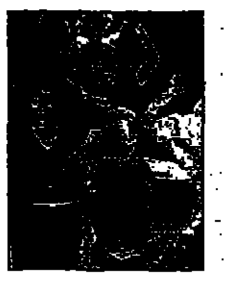
VENUE: Now in preview at the Cottesloe

THE TIMES ARTS

■ CHOICE 3

Nuria Espert's staging of *La traviata* comes back to Glasgow

VENUE: Opens tonight at the Theatre Royal



■ YOUNG ARTS

***Fame* found in Surrey: the sixth-form college where everybody learns show business**

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

EMERSON STRING QUARTET: America's remarkable ensemble opens another Beethoven series tonight, picking up where Britain's own illustrious Lindsay Quartet left off earlier this month at the Wigmore. Also at the South Bank, pianist Emanuel Ax joins Christoph von Dohnányi and the **Philharmonia Orchestra** for a programme of Schoenberg, Mozart and more Beethoven.
South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). RFH: Philharmonia, 7.30pm. QEH Emerson, 7.45pm. Ⓢ

UCHIDA RETURNS: London is treated to two top-flight pianists tonight. Ax at the South Bank and Mitsuko Uchida, making her second appearance here this week. Tonight she performs Mozart's Piano Concerto No 18 with the London Symphony Orchestra, as part of the Bruckner/Mozart series. Colin Davis conducts.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

STANLEY: First night of previews for Antony Sher playing Stanley Spencer, the painter whose desired connections *with women were odd*. John Caird directs the new biographical play by Pam Gems.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Jan 31, 7.30pm. Opens Feb 1, 7pm. In rep Ⓢ

ELSEWHERE

CARDIFF: The **BBC National Orchestra of Wales** takes a lunchtime slot today for the first in a series of works by young British composers. Today's programme features Stravinsky and premieres Lynne Plowman's *Blue*. Martyn Brabbins conducts, Martin Roscoe is the pianist.
St David's Hall, The Hayes (01222 878444). Today, 1.05pm. Ⓢ

GLASGOW: Scottish Opera continues its season with *La traviata*, reviving theatrical supremo Nuria Espert's 1989 production — originally a joint venture with Madrid's Teatro Lirico Nacional La Zarzuela. Richard Armstrong conducts Claire Rutter as Violetta and Paul Charles Clarke as Alfredo.
Theatre Royal, Hope Street (0141-332 9000). Tonight and Sat, 7.15pm Ⓢ

MANCHESTER: David Verrey, marvellous as the hypochondriac gag-writer in *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, now plays the maniacal hero in Dario Fo's **Accidental Death of an Anarchist**. Directed by Benjamin Twist.
Contact, Oxford Road (0161-274 4400). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Jan 30, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until Feb 17. Ⓢ

POOLE: Dutch conductor Kees Bakels takes up the baton for the first in a series of concerts with the *Bournemouth* **Symphony Orchestra**. Tonight's programme, repeated tomorrow in Bristol, includes pieces by Grieg, Nielsen and Saint-Saëns. If you can get out for a late lunch, there is also a free performance tomorrow.
Wessex Hall, Arts Centre Ⓢ (01202 685222), tonight, 7.30pm. Thurs in **Bristol**, Colston Hall Ⓢ (0117 9223682), 2pm and 7.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Contemporary British Tapestry (0171-638 4141) . . . **British Museum:** Images from the Western Lake: revival of colour print in contemporary China (0171-636 1555) **National Gallery:** Paintings from National Trust Houses (0171-747 2885) . . . **National Portrait Gallery:** Faces of the 80s (0171-306 0055) . *Royal Academy: David Hockney* Drawing Retrospective (0171-439 7438) **Tate:** Colin Self (0171-887 8000) . **V&A:** Jain Art from India (0171-938 8500) . . . **Whitechapel:** Emil Nolde (0171-522 7888)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **COMIC CUTS:** Backstage at the Leeds Empire in 1951: times are changing as old-style Variety is menaced by new, young pop singers. Jack Shepherd's play catches the moment of change.
Lyric Studio, King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311). Previews tonight and opens tomorrow, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4.30pm

◪ **THE DUCHESS OF MALFI:** Cheek by Jowl's often bewildering production of an already confusing play but Anastasia Hille is marvellous as the beleaguered heroine. Final week.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1746). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm

☐ **LES ENFANTS DU PARADIS:** Helen McCrory, Joseph Fiennes, Rupert Graves and James Purefoy play the passionate lovers, of theatre and one another, in Simon Callow's production of the classic French film.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). *Now previewing: tonight-Jan 29,* 7.15pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2pm. Opens Jan 30 Ⓢ

◪ **THE FIELDS OF AMBROSIA:** American musical with book and lyrics by Joel Higgins, who also stars as a state executioner who falls in love with the woman set to be his next "client". Music by Martin Silvestri. One US reviewer called it "original, compelling and fun".
Aldwych, Strand, WC2 (0171-416 6048). Now previewing: tonight-Jan 30, *7.45pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Opens Jan 31.*

◪ **HYSTERIA:** Henry Goodman plays Freud, with Tim Potter as Salvador Dali, in Terry Johnson's surreal, double award-winner. The funniest serious play in London.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm. Final week. Ⓢ

☐ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND:** Peter Hall *revives his 1992 production of Wilde's* drama of political sleaze and scandal. A star cast includes Martin Shaw, Anna Carteret, Penny Downie.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm Ⓢ

◪ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS:** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm

☐ **LONDON INTERNATIONAL MIME FESTIVAL:** Mime, acrobatics and the haunting skills of contemporary visual theatre, at various venues.
Information: (0171 637 5661).

◪ **THE LONG AND THE SHORT AND THE TALL:** Mark Arden and Bert Kwouk in revival of Willis Hall's celebrated jungle-war drama; produced *by Counterpoint Theatre Co, to follow their enjoyable The Streets of Dublin.*
Brixton Shaw, Brixton Hill, SW2 (0171-274 6470). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm.

◪ **SALTIMBANCO:** The Montreal-based Cirque du Soleil boasts 45 performers (actors, dancers, acrobats), brilliant costumes, no animals.
Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tonight-Sun, 7.45pm; *contact box office for mat schedule.*

☐ **VOYAGE IN THE DARK:** Strong and poignant production by Sphinx of Jean Rhys' 1934 novel where a naive 19-year-old, adrift in London, finds her hopes for love hitting the rocks. Recommended.
Young Vic Studio, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm.

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **DANGEROUS MINDS** (15): Michelle Pfeiffer brings hope to an inner-city school. Predictable, rose-tinted drama; director, John N. Smith.
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons:** *Kensington* (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426-915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

FAIR GAME (15): Laughable action vehicle for model Cindy Crawford, cast as an attorney in peril. With William Baldwin. Director, Andrew Sipes.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18): Nicolas Cage drinks himself to death. Striking, intimate drama from director Mike Figgis. With Elisabeth Shue.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705) *Ritzy (0171-737 2121)* **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

MUTE WITNESS (18): Mute girl witnesses a film studio murder. Exhilarating and cheeky thriller set in Moscow, with Marina Sudina. Director, Anthony Waller.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

PERSUASION (U): Jane Austen's novel about love lost and found, sensitively adapted by the BBC. With Amanda Root. Director, Roger Michell.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891)

THE UNDERNEATH (15): The classic 1940s thriller *Criss Cross* remade as a stylish puzzle by director Steven Soderbergh. With Peter Gallagher.
MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279) **Plaza** Ⓢ (0171-437 1234) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

CURRENT

◆ **BABE** (U): Glorious, vivacious family film about a sheep-herding pig, with a cast of talking animals.
Empire Ⓢ (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** Ⓢ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (792 3332)

◆ **DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS** (15): Splendidly atmospheric thriller with Denzel Washington as the ordinary Joe in late 1940s Los Angeles stumbling over corpses, police and corruption. From Walter Mosley's novel.
Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

◆ **GOLDENEYE** (12): Pierce Brosnan twinkles as the new James Bond. A rip-roaring thriller with a sense of humour; with Sean Bean.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **SEVEN** (18): Unsettling and off-beat serial killer thriller, with Morgan Freeman and Brad Pitt. Director, David Fincher.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Gate** Ⓢ (0171-727 4043) **MGMs:** *Chelsea (0171-352 5096) Fulham* **Road** (0171-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

SHANGHAI TRIAD (15): Enjoyably opulent gangster saga from Chinese director *Zhang Yimou*. With Gong Li.
MGM Swiss Centre (0171-439 4470) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233)

TO DIE FOR (15): Delicious social satire about a television weather girl's murderous lust for glory. Gus Van Sant directs Nicole Kidman and Matt Dillon.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) **Odeon Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

Hilary Finch on the Surrey school where lessons are learnt by putting on a show

MARTIN BEDDALL

Stage of life: Hurtwood pupils rehearsing their recent show, Grease. Some will go to drama schools, others to university creative arts courses

Where work is one long playtime

YOUNG AT art

In a dance studio perched high on a hilltop, a group of 17-year-old girls is being put through its jazz and contemporary paces by Micky Hunt. In a suite of tiny, dark rooms off the main theatre foyer, Morgan Bryars is teaching three A-level music technology students to sample into a key group. Opposite them, 18-year-old flautist Tory Benzie is composing on a synthesizer fed through a computer.

Bloodcurdling screams tear the air apart. In a distant upper room, writer Paul Sellar is teaching scriptwriting and directing, making an adaptation of *Murder in the Dark*. Across a gravelled path and in what seems to be a barn, Bim Mason is checking a dozen leering faces, mask by mask.

Five minutes' drive away, in the drawing room of an Elizabethan country house, camouflage is being designed for a jester Puck. And on the other side of this increasingly bizarre midsummer night's dreamland, an earnest German carpenter is making a 1:25 scale ground-plan model for Jim Cartwright's play *Road*.

The longer you spend at Hurtwood House, the more *surreal it gets. For this is all* happening in one afternoon inside five Lutyensesque houses deep in the wooded Surrey valleys west of Dorking. They form one of the most unusual sixth-form colleges in the land.

Hurtwood House is a private residential school, specialising in theatre studies but offering a choice of 20 other A-level subjects as well — a spawning-ground, one would imagine, of potential candidates for grants from the lottery-generated "talent funds" announced this week by Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary.

When Richard Jackson founded the school 25 years ago, he had 17 overseas students who were willing to share his dream and had the cash to help him to begin to realise it. Now, 120 of the school's 250 students are studying in the performing arts department for an A-level *in theatre studies*.

"Theatre and education are the same thing for me," Jackson says. "If you believe that education is about more than qualifications, that it is about teamwork, about extending people — then this is drama.

"When I started Hurtwood, there were 630 public schools. I didn't want to create the 631st. I wanted to start a school that valued practical and performance-based subjects as much as academic ones — for people who were looking for something different."

Jonathan Kelly, 17 and halfway between Wells Cathedral School and drama school, is focusing on acting as his individual skill, and directing as his contribution to the group project of the theatre studies course. His first year at Hurtwood was based around a series of workshops — mask, mime, physical and musical theatre — given by visiting professionals and touring companies. "I came along expecting a lot from this place, and I certainly got it," he says.

The camouflaged Puck belongs to 17-year-old Catherine Hume. Although Robin Goodfellow, he who "frights the maidens of the villagery", certainly enchanted her after a performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Barbican; and although she, too, had planned to take an acting option, she switched to costume studies and has designed an extraordinarily imaginative outfit: tie-dyed leaf camouflage for the back; bright jester's motley at the front. She hopes to read English at Oxford.

Although Hurtwood is not above boasting of the likes of Hans Zimmer (who wrote music for *The Lion King* and *Driving Miss Daisy*) and Amelia Curtis (*Judge Dredd*) as old boys and girls, Michael Friend, director of performing arts, is keen to emphasise that it is not an embryonic drama school.

"Out of the cast of our most recent show, *Grease*, only three or four will go to drama school," he says. "Ten or so, perhaps, will do creative arts courses.

"I am not here to produce performers. I am here to make people enjoy the performing arts. If they do that, they become motivated, recharged in everything that they learn. I want every student to believe wholeheartedly in what they are doing."

Jackson puts it this way: "For 150 years the public school system has thrived on rugby as the common pursuit. Theatre studies are our common pursuit. And that's about far more than winning."

● *Hurtwood House, Holmbury St Mary, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6NU (01483 277416; fax 01483 267586)*

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■ HERITAGE

Was Sir Francis Drake, who died 400 years ago, the great captain of legend or a third-rate pirate?

■ OPERA

The state of Utah celebrates its centenary by commissioning and premiering a new opera

THE TIMES ARTS

■ OFFER

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■ TOMORROW

Whitney Houston in *Waiting to Exhale*, De Niro in *Heat*: the new films reviewed by Geoff Brown

Full houses grow beside Salt Lake

Rodney Milnes sees the first work commissioned by the ever-expanding Utah Opera

Utah Opera starts with a number of advantages, not least the beautiful, 100-year-old Capitol Theatre in Salt Lake City, lovingly restored to proper use after a period as a department store. To walk from a typical downtown cityscape into this cream and gold riot of Edwardian Baroque, its chandeliers a-glitter, its 1,900-seat auditorium cosy and welcoming, is slightly unnerving — from America to Europe in one step. It is an invaluable facility.

The young company, founded in 1978 by the tenor Glade Peterson, is now run by the director Anne Ewers. It has grown prudently, currently presenting five performances each of three mainly bread-and-butter operas — *Salome* is the most modern piece staged in the Capitol, although Britten's church parables have been given in duly ecclesiastical settings.

This prudence, plus a top ticket price of $45 going down to $12, has won it a loyal audience. There is an 86 per cent subscription base, and for the past five years all performances have been sold out. So next season the company will expand its repertory to four operas. The laws of supply and demand come into it as well as prudence.

This year it has celebrated the centenary of Utah's statehood by making one of the three operas its first commissioned world premiere, David Carlson's *Dreamkeepers*. Again, the prudence and practicality guiding the project are striking — no casting of bonnets over windmills here. *Dreamkeepers* comes in at less than 90 minutes' music split into two acts; there are only four principal characters, plus a large chorus.

It would be easy to purse your lips at Carlson's unashamedly neo-romantic musical language, but more profitable to note that he handles his chosen idiom with unobtrusive technical skill — pace, dramatic shape, balance; all are persuasively handled — and he writes for voice and large orchestra with total confidence. His last opera, *The Midnight Angel* (premiered in Saint Louis in 1993), was hampered by a trivial libretto; this is an infinitely better work.

The text by Aden Ross, poet and playwright of local fame, shows signs of having been severely compressed, and all to the good — the music is firmly in command. Again, it would be easy to balk at some passages of "creative writing", at others nearer the world of Oscar Hammerstein II than that of Hofmannsthal, and to note that the whole constitutes a monument to political correctness.

The heroine is Ela, a Ute Native American returning from the city to her reservation. Her grandmother represents the old Ute order, memories of past persecution still vivid (the programme contains turn-of-the-century photographs of Ute children forced into European school uniforms as part of an "education" project and looking perfectly miserable).

A baritone government agent takes on assorted villain roles, rather after the manner of *Death in Venice*. The tenor hero, a doctor, has failed Ela in an earlier relationship, but returns to try again, and is involved in a car crash at the end of the first act.

In the second act Ela descends to the spirit world, at grandmother's behest, to rescue him, the gender roles of Orpheus and Eurydice neatly reversed. After much therapeutical coming to terms with the past, the opera ends with a multiracial chorus of affirmation that, by comparison, makes Bernstein's *Make our garden grow* sound like a dirge from the Slough of Despond. But it worked: the audience rose to a standing ovation, and even before Saturday's premiere there was not a seat to be had for any of the five performances.

Ewers directed efficiently on Michael Downs's sun-baked set, and the authenticity of the Ute costumes was guaranteed by advisers from the tribe, who also attended the premiere in spectacular attire.

Juliana Gondek coped affectingly with the soprano role; Debria Brown, last heard here in the Kupfer *Elektra* in Cardiff, was the grandmother; Brian Montgomery made an eminently hissable villain, and Tonio di Paolo, a ringing tenor with brilliant diction, a memorable hero. Stirring choral singing and playing from the Utah Symphony under the émigré Scottish conductor Stewart Robertson set the seal on an incontrovertible success story.

Peter Davies assesses the fluctuating reputation of Sir Francis Drake, who died 400 years ago

A lie on the ocean wave?

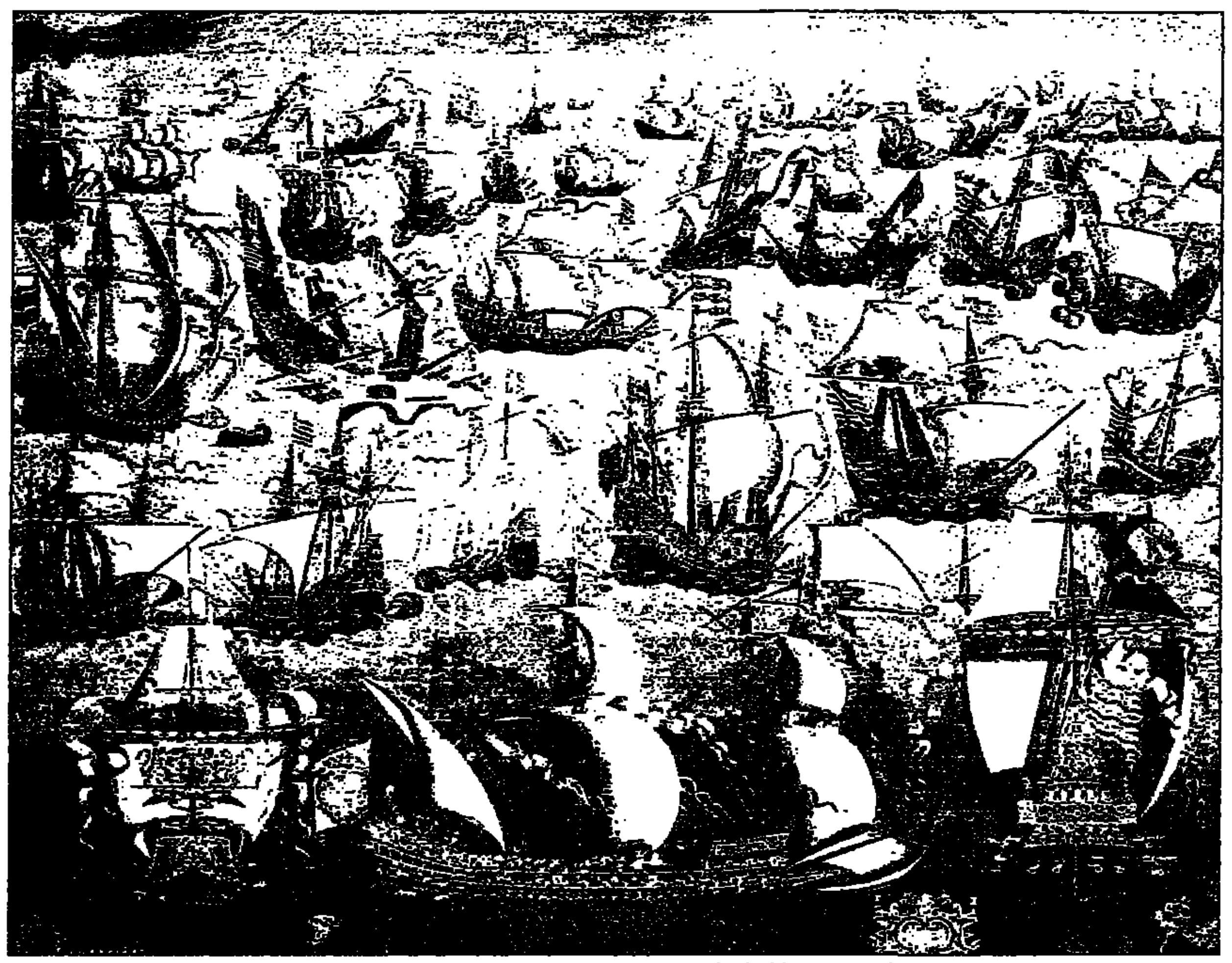
Historians have long been at work to erode the reputation of that quasi-mythological figure Sir Francis Drake. His tactics have been criticised, his sense of strategy impugned and his contribution to the defeat of the Armada belittled. Already before the Second World War the iconoclastic Herbert Butterfield had assailed the received view of history which saw the events of 1588 as part of Protestant England's libertarian stand against authoritarian Catholicism. Even the impeccably patriotic H.A.L. Fisher had murmured *sotto voce* that Drake was perhaps *not quite* the commander we took him for; that opportunistic buccaneering on the Spanish Main was no substitute for capturing a port like Cartagena and getting on with a systematic campaign.

This process of denigration reached its apogee on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the defeat of the Armada. At that point the prime guardian of our nautical heritage, the National Maritime Museum, appeared to enter the fray as devil's advocate supreme. Its booklet about the Armada failed to mention Drake's name once. English preparations to face the enemy were described as "chaotic", in marked contrast to the "expert" tactics apparently being employed on the other side of the Channel by the Duke of Parma. And then the cat was let out of the bag: the Spanish Ambassador was discovered to be on the museum's exhibition committee.

Middle, not to speak of maritime, England had had enough. Howls of execration rose in response to the announcement of commemorative events that seemed designed to bury for ever the reputation of one of England's most famous sons. In the taverns of patriotic Plymouth and Deptford, the Tower was darkly spoken of as the only fit place for the director of the National Maritime Museum.

And when Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin dared to point out that Lord Howard of Effingham had commanded the English fleet, and that Drake was only a subordinate vice-admiral, it was tartly riposted in one newspaper that, five-star admiral he might be, but assuredly no eye would be moistening to the sound of *Lewin's Drum*, four centuries hence.

Eight years on, the dust of this fierce controversy has settled. And surely it cannot be stirred up again by the National Maritime Museum's exhibition *Blood, Sea and Ice: Three English Explorers*, which opens on Sunday — 400 years, to the day, after Drake's death. If Drake was not allowed to be at the centre of the quatercenteniary celebrations for 1588, he is firmly at the forefront here.



English ships and the Spanish Armada, August 1588, which is included in the National Maritime Museum show

Three navigators of widely different eras and character are yoked together by the exhibition. Drake remains the darling/ruffian of the seas, and the chancer *par excellence*. Captain James Cook was a meticulous navigator, who brought the scientific habits of the 18th century to everything he did, including care for his men's health.

Sir John Franklin was blooded at Trafalgar, went on to serve in Britain's first steam-propelled ships and developed the passion for the search for the North-West Passage which was to lead him to a frozen death. But these three were united in one thing: that streak of ruthless obstinacy which was a necessary concomitant of (literally in their case) putting themselves on the map.

With Drake it is not necessary to gild the lily. He had begun his seafaring career in earnest in the slave trade between the Guinea coast and the West Indies with his cousin John Hawkins. The clashes with the Spaniards which made both famous were nothing to do with patriotic pride. They were born out of the desire to break a commercial monopoly.

Clearly Drake was a skilled ship handler and tactician. The Spaniards were prodigiously wary of him and his hauls of treasure from their galleons were immense. Queen Elizabeth's fragile treasury was only too glad to get its share. But when hit-and-run piracy was required to transform itself into regular naval operations, it was a different matter. There was no Commander-in-Chief Fleet to co-ordinate logistics. Controlling, as they did, so much of the Central and South American littoral, the Spaniards were actually in an impregnable position when the freebooter suddenly tried to turn himself into an invader.

In any event, Drake's remarkable circumnavigation of the world between 1577 and 1580 is his real monument. As the beautifully executed maps in this exhibition show, it writes him into the annals of navigation in a manner that is proof against future wrangles as to his contribution to the victory over the Armada.

The self-educated son of a farm labourer, James Cook began his seafaring life in the unglamorous east-coast coal trade. By the time he enlisted in the Royal Navy, eight years later, he had learnt, at least, what makes a well-found ship. The *Endeavour*, in which he made his round-the-world voyage between the years 1768 and 1771, may have been fitted out at Deptford, but she had begun life as a Whitby collier. Cook knew that the breed had unmatched robustness, as well as the capacity to carry the stores needed for long passages in the untenanted southern oceans.

The record of his later voyages is enriched by the works of the painter William Hodges, who sailed with him. Hodges captured the vibrancy and colour of South Sea island life. One of the most memorable images of this section of the exhibition is *Tahiti Revisited* (1776), an evocation of a seemingly paradisaical existence in the last moments before it succumbed to the onslaught of a technical civilisation.

The John Franklin exhibits take us from the heat and light of the South Pacific to Arctic nights and 50 degrees of frost. When, in May 1845, the *Erebus* and *Terror* sailed out to look for the North-West Passage, with provisions for over three years and a library of 2,900 books, they were reckoned to constitute the best-equipped expedition ever to leave England's scores. They never returned.

> ‘Clashes with the Spaniards were nothing to do with patriotism’

After ten years and the expenditure of almost a million pounds the Government gave up trying to find out what had happened. Lady Franklin persisted, and in 1859 an expedition financed by her finally found a note containing two messages. The first, dated May 28, 1847, announced "All well". The second, written almost a year later, recorded the death of Franklin and the abandonment of the two ships in the pack ice. It was to be the expedition's last testament to the outside world. In all, 129 men had perished.

- ● Blood, Sea and Ice: Three English Explorers *at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich (0181-858 4422) from Sunday until June 30*

Royal invitation

THE TIMES THE THEATRE CLUB

THE Royal Court Theatre in London's Sloane Square has built a reputation *second to none* for finding and staging bold new plays, from John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger* in 1956 to modern successes such as *Death and the Maiden* and *My Night With Reg*. This week members have the chance to see the theatre's latest bid for immortality as well as the third play in the Royal Court Classics season at the Duke of York's Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2

Royal Court Theatre
Jan 31-Feb 3, 7 (7.30pm)
Feb 10 (3.30pm)

● A YOUNG girl needs the courage to embark on an uncertain future, while her grandfather must find the wisdom to let go of the past. Athol Fugard, South Africa's leading dramatist, directs and appears in the European premiere of his new play, *Valley Song*, which explores the hopes, dreams and fears of the people of the new South Africa. Top-price tickets £13.50 and £11.35 (normally £18 and £15). Tel 0171-730 1745

Duke of York's Theatre
Feb 1-24

● BASED on his own experiences as a professional rugby player, David Storey's extraordinary play *The Changing Room* had its premiere at the Royal Court in 1971. Storey uses the shifting tensions and excitement of each stage of a hard-fought match to open up the world of rugby league, and the men who play it, run it and love it. Club members can buy the best available ticket for £12.50 (normally up to £22.50), for Tues-Fri evening and Sat matinee performances. Tel 0171-836 5122

THE WEEK'S OTHER SPECIALS

LONDON
Tricycle Theatre
Jan 25-Feb 2

● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £5 to £9.50) for *Two Trains Running*, August Wilson's fifth play about the black American experience in the 20th century. Tel 0171-328 1000

BAC
Feb 6-11

● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £7.50) for Lavinia Murray's drama *O Isabella! You bad, bad girl* ... Tel 0171-223 2223

BLANDFORD
Bryanston Arts Centre
Feb 24

● SAVE 20 per cent on tickets (normally £8) for the evening performance of Fiona Laird's adaptation of Aristophanes' *Frogs*. Tel 01258 456533

OXFORD
Playhouse
Feb 6-8

● SAVE £5 on the top two ticket prices (normally £10 and £12) to see Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Tel 01865 798600

CUMBERNAULD
Cumbernauld Theatre
Feb 12-15

● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £6) for the award-winning comedy *Onions Make You Cry*. Tel 01236 732887

HULL
Hull Truck Theatre
Feb 7-Mar 3

● TWO for the price of one (normally £5 to £7.50) for *Shirley Valentine*. Tel 01482 323 638

CHESTER
Gateway Theatre
Feb 2-9

● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £7.50 to £12) for Neil Simon's *California Suite*. Tel 01244 340392

BASINGSTOKE
Haymarket Theatre
Jan 26, Feb 2

● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £12.95 and £13.95) for Noël Coward's *Private Lives*. Tel 01256 465566

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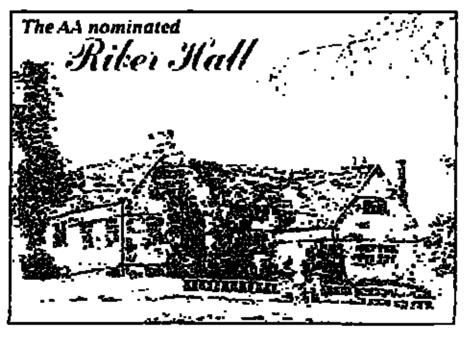

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Hope and hesitancy in the North

Christopher Warman weighs up the prospects of a market revival

Confidence, a crucial factor in the recovery of the property market, remains at a cautious level in the North of England, to judge by surveys published this month by Jones Lang Wootton.

Business confidence in the North West is slightly higher than in both the neighbouring West Midlands or the Yorkshire and Humberside regions (although Leeds is an exception), with 57 per cent of the respondents expressing more confidence about their business prospects for the coming year, while only 6 per cent were less confident.

There was a marginal decline of 0.6 per cent in office employment in the past year, but both the manufacturing and retail and distribution sectors have increased by nearly 3 per cent. Over the coming year, employment prospects remain reasonable with a growth of 1 per cent anticipated overall.

Office demand in the North West has gone down, as disposals of space exceeded take-up, and the negative balance has been concentrated in two sectors: public services and industry and marketing.

Although demand from public service organisations is uncertain, the finance and business services sector shows increasing demand, generated by an expansion of banking and insurance activities outside the metropolitan area. The outlook for the next two years is for a small increase in demand in all but the Greater Manchester market, which will suffer from considerable vacation by the local government, engineering and telecommunications sectors.

For the industry and warehousing sector, Jones Lang Wootton says that the overall trends suggest a positive demand during the next two years, expected to be led by the industial sector within the Greater Manchester area but outside the city itself.

Commenting on the findings of the review, Andrew Shaw, partner in charge of Jones Lang Wootton's Manchester office, takes encouragement from the positive outlook being displayed in Greater Manchester. "However, it is very important that this optimism is used as a magnet for inward investment for the North West," he says.

Restored: Civic Court in Leeds, now office space. Richard Ellis and Grenville Smith & Duncan are asking £16.50 a sq ft

In the Leeds/Yorkshire and Humberside review, a little more than half (51 per cent) of the respondents expressed more confidence for the coming 12 months, but this compares with 65 per cent last year. The number of respondents less optimistic has doubled to 6 per cent. All sectors have shown a deterioration in business confidence, but finance and business services continue to show the greatest confidence, with 57 per cent more optimistic.

After an increase in office employment in 1994, there was a slight decline (0.7 per cent) last year. With the exception of finance and business services, which saw an increase of 2.4 per cent, all sectors saw a fall in office employment levels.

As with the North West, the likely reduction of staff in the public services sector has led to a prediction of a small decline in overall office employment in the coming year. The continuing trend for government departments and local authorities to downsize and outsource functions is expected to contribute to a further 3.3 per cent decline in the public services sector. By contrast, finance and business services predict a 1 per cent improvement.

The level of demand for offices improved slightly during the last 12 months, though there remains a negative demand balance. The strength of the legal sector in Leeds ensured that the central area of the city maintained a small but positive balance of net demand, while an increase in vacation rates among other business services and transport and telecommunications companies had an adverse impact on the level of demand in the city as a whole.

Net demand for office space is expected to record a positive balance over the next two years, led by the finance and business service sectors.

Alistair Russell, partner in charge of Jones Lang Wootton's Leeds office, says: "The general trends reflect the economic mood of the country and the realisation that the road to recovery is likely to be slow, with gradual improvement.

"While confidence levels are down on last year and demand is patchy, we can be cautiously optimistic about the property markets in Yorkshire and Humberside, particularly in Leeds city centre, where demand would appear to outstrip the supply of good quality office accommodation, providing opportunities for rental growth."

Across the country as a whole, the property market has taken some comfort from last week's reduction of 0.25 per cent in the Bank of England base rate. Stephen Newbold, associate partner with Knight Frank, which has published its latest *UK Economic and Property Investment Commentary*, says that sustained growth in the economy, albeit at a reduced level, plus falls in interest rates and unemployment levels, saw 1995 end on a positive note.

"Looking into 1996, several of the key indices driving tenant demand in the commercial sector, such as financial and business services profitability, manufacturing output and consumer spending, have the potential to improve," he says.

Space project takes flight

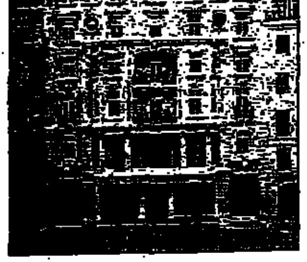
MARKETING has begun for 50 Pall Mall, London, a 33,500 sq ft development by Arcona Properties and funded by AMP Asset Management. The building, designed by Trehearne & Norman, has a spectacular atrium and air-conditioned space behind the Edwardian Portland stone façade, and is being offered at £39 a sq ft through DTZ Debenham Thorpe and Conway Relf.

Arcona has also acquired the freehold of 44-47 Pall Mall from Prudential Portfolio Managers for £18.775 million, and is redeveloping the building to provide a new office building of 60,000 a sq ft, which will have an investment value of £50 million.

☐ RICHARDSON Developments has let Point North, a six-storey headquarters building at its Waterfront complex at Dudley in the Black Country, to the Prudential in a deal that will eventually create more than 700 new jobs. The Pru is paying an annual rent of £1.05 million to take initially 70,000 sq ft and later the entire 100,000 sq ft of the building for a new telephone banking operation.

☐ LLOYD Investment Managers are offering the freehold of 25 Christopher Street in the City of London up for sale at around £3 million. The 61,500 sq ft architect-designed redevelopment, between Broadgate and Finsbury Square, has the benefit of an improved planning permission. Healey & Baker and *Matthews* & Goodman are joint agents.

☐ THE Crown Estate has exchanged agreements with Peel Developments (North) Limited to forward-fund the *Altrincham Retail* Park for more than £30 million. The development, which has unrestricted planning permission, will be the largest retail park in the Manchester conurbation, comprising around 182,500 sq ft on a 16-acre site. The investment has been fully pre-let, led by Sainsbury's Homebase.


The Edwardian stone façade at 50 Pall Mall

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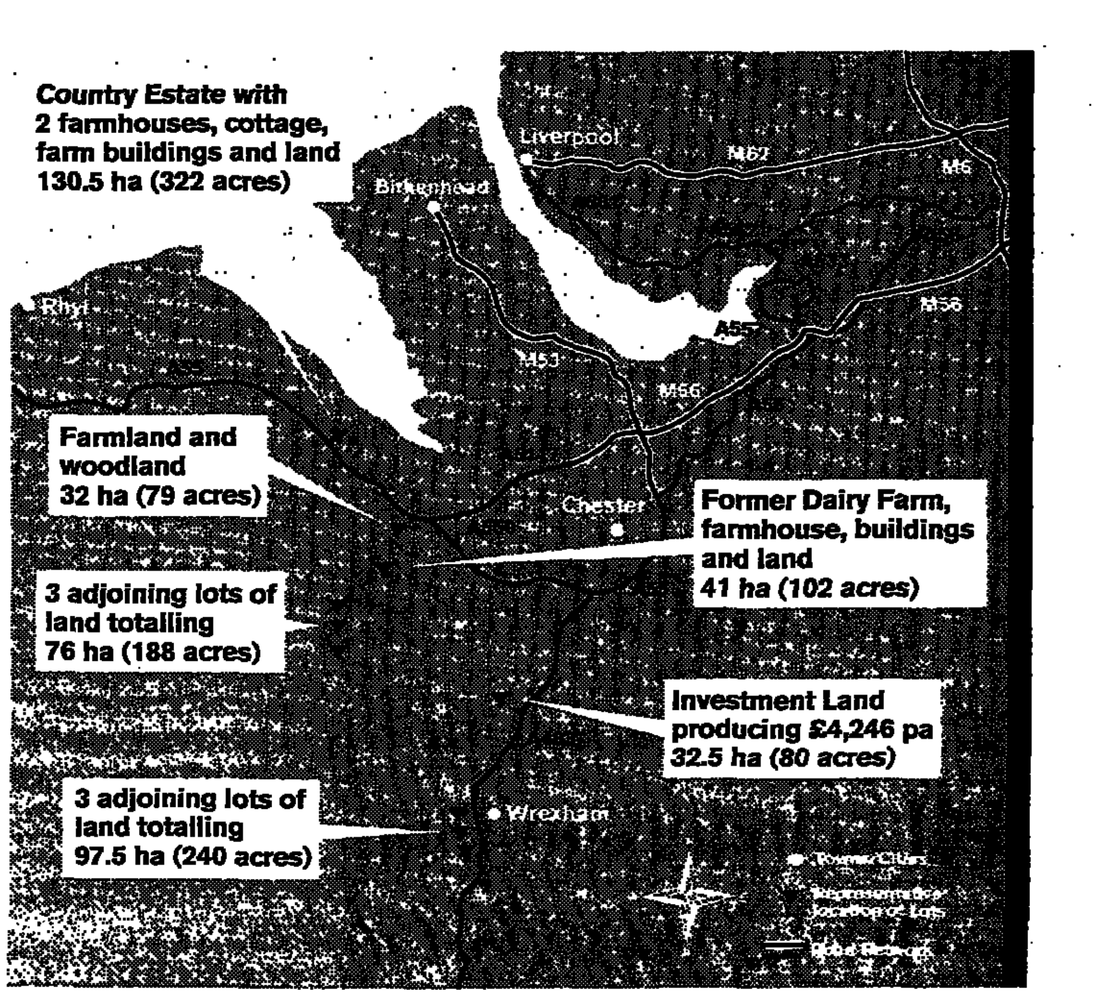

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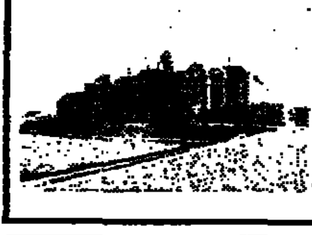

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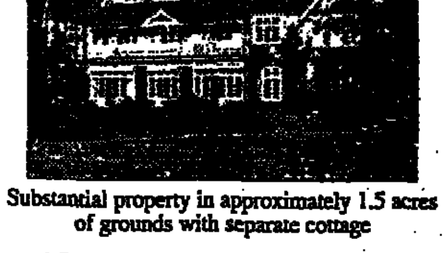

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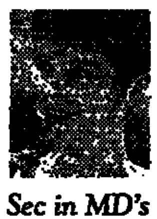

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Educational institute

We presently have a very large number of quality roles available. If you have secretarial skills and would like to re-appraise your career options, call today in confidence, on 0171-494 4466 or fax us on 0171-494 4499.

Gordon Yates recruits on the basis of merit *and equal opportunity.*

GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

Bright, Enthusiastic Junior

International asset management company in Knightsbridge need a highly motivated junior. 'A' levels, computer literate basic secretarial skills. An expanding company that requires someone flexible, numerate and hard working. Good telephone manner and ability to work under pressure essential.

Apply with CV to:
Box No 2827 No agencies

Legal Float Secretary

£18,600 pa + Excellent Benefits

Are you a legal secretary looking to expand on your current experience and keen to find a new challenge? We are currently recruiting for one of the top city law firms and would like to hear from you if you have a minimum of one years legal experience & 55wpm typing. Excellent benefits include gym on site, subsidised restaurant & profit related pay. Please call Kim Harris on 0171 377 9919 for further information.

HOBSTONES
LEGAL SECRETARIES

Urgently Required!

- * Senior PA's/Secretaries *
- * WP Operators/Receptionists *
- * Marketing Assistants *

Do you answer one of the above descriptions?
Are you available for temporary work?
Long & Short term temporary assignments avialable at highly competitive rates.

Call Jan Williams now to arrange an appointment.

Secretarial & Temporary *appointments*

Tel: 0171 579 0333
Fax: 0171 579 0113
7a Langley Street
London WC2H 9JA

A division of Graduate Appointments

PA/ SECRETARY.

Managing Director of a busy, private property and building company requires a confident, well organised secretary. Must be able to work as part of the team. Excellent salary and working environment.

Please send CV, stating current salary, to:

Romulus Construction
Sandford House
10 Maynard Close
Kings Road
London SW6 2DB.

Tel: 0171-736-0679

InterMatrix Group

PA/SECRETARY

Required by successful management consultancy in South Kensington area. You will have worked at Senior level, be well organised with excellent PA/Secretarial skills, competent with Microsoft Word, Powerpoint, have a good knowledge of WordPerfect 5.1 and looking for a challenging career. Salary negotiable on skills and experience. Please write to: Bernadette Lyons, InterMatrix Limited, 4 Cromwell Place, London SW7 2JJ.

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Fluent French (English Mother Tongue)
Travel and work in Europe and the USA

Junior Personal Assistant/Secretary

For a dedicated professional Personal Assistant of the greatest character and integrity, this advertisement represents the opportunity of a lifetime. Our client a well-known family whose lives move constantly around on international circuit offers a superb salary, conditions and all expenses in return for your complete loyalty, discretion, hard work and constant reliability. You must have had a very good general education, be highly organised, flexible in work style, have the ability to run complicated travel itineraries, be patient and resourceful. You must be excellent at prioritising but at the same time be able to put the family first. You must be comfortable and experienced in travelling, able to adapt quickly and easily to different countries and their customs. You must be able to work closely in tandem with a senior PA, this is important because together you make up the family's secretarial support. Excellent typing, shorthand a strong advantage. You will be aged 24+.

Interested parties must be free of commitments. In addition to fluent French, fluent German would be a strong advantage. In the first instance please telephone our offices prior to sending your CV.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

FROM RECEPTIONIST TO CONSULTANT!

c£12-14,000 + BONUS + LIE IN & EARLY LEAVE + MED + MORE

It's 10.00am and you've just got to work (it's your lie-in), you suddenly remembered there's a birthday today, so its champagne in the fridge and you'll get the birthday cake later. You've also remembered to make notes for reception, because you're all going to France for the day tomorrow.. and you mustn't forget to book your train tickets for the weekend, because you leave work at 3.00pm on Friday. Start out here as a managing receptionist (diaries, visits, meetings) helping with *marketing and troubleshooting for the team, and a year down the line?...*Take on a junior exec role. If you're in your early 20s, well educated, smart and friendly with proven office experience and a desire to be a genuine team member, call us now, it's an immediate start!

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

MEDIA MANIA

C£12,000

The enthusiasm, the excitement, the zeal...it's electrifying! From the moment you walk through the doors of this Central London advertising agency, it's go, go go! The ads made here are unforgettable, so if you are lively with experience (ideally) in media, advertising, promo or PR this is the piece for you. BUT it's not all glitz and glamour, you'll need to bring some skills to the job like 50wpm, a cool head, and admin. If you are 18+, and you want a *genuinely interesting job, please call.*

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

MAY & STEPHENS

4 Team Secretaries, EC2 Bank

£24,000 Full Bank Package

Expansion with a top-rated City bank has led to a demand for 4 WP Secretaries (with or without s'hand) who are looking to make a positive step forward. Based within an award winning area you will provide assistance to Directors, with your software skills coming into full play for the creation of presentations and where working under pressure, meeting tight deadlines and liaising across a global network will be an everyday occurrence. Basic salaries £18,500-£20,000 p.a.

Tel: 0171-488 9922 Fax: 0171-782 3331

City Recruitment

YOU'VE SEEN THE REST - NOW CHOOSE THE BEST!

MARKETING SECRETARIES

Good PowerPoint Essential £17,000 + Excellent Benefits

This is a brilliant opportunity for two young team secretaries to join a friendly, busy and highly successful marketing department within an international finance company. These are brand new positions, so you won't be filling anyone else's shoes. Stacks of involvement, fabulous personalities and not huge hours.

CALLING ALL BANKING/FINANCE SECRETARIES

£17,000 - £20,000

Pan European has an extensive client base in the City and many prestigious companies are looking to recruit high calibre team and 1 to 1 or 2 secretaries. We are currently looking for audio and shorthand secretaries for the following areas: • Corporate Finance • Specialised Finance • Compliance • Personnel • Operations • Publishing • IT

TEMPS! TEMPS! TEMPS!

Immediate temporary assignments at highly competitive rates for professional secretaries with 100wpm shorthand, 60wpm typing and good working knowledge of Windows-based packages. Preferred age 20-30.

STOP PRESS - WE WILL BE OPEN UNTIL 9PM FOR LATE NIGHT REGISTRATIONS TONIGHT!

PAN EUROPEAN
RECRUITMENT

Please call us on
0171-734 8484
Fax: 0171 734 8501

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

A SPECIAL START...

£11-13,000

...awaits a socially confident first jobber in beautiful artistic surroundings in Central London. A appreciation of art will be an asset, however this is not a role for a would be art dealer! This *is a delightful admin role needing sec skills (40wpm) to support a genuinely friendly team. Note, this is a 1st jobber role unsuitable for career minded art graduates or similar.*

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SMART BEGINNINGS

UP TO £15,500...

...await a young first or second jobber (graduates welcome) who is bright enough and dynamic enough to take on a team sec role (50wpm). The offices are some of the most stunning to be seen across London. If you are extremely well presented, well spoken and want a genuinely upmarket position, please call.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SHOWROOM ADMINISTRATOR

£17,000

This innovative charitable organisation acts as a link between small enterprises producing handmade household items in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and quality retailers and importers. The W1 office (or rather, beautiful showroom) needs a capable and dedicated administrator to become involved in exhibitions, marketing, publicity, fundraising and the expansion of the services offered to thirty countries. You'll need secretarial (50 wpm) and database experience, but your ability to understand the operation totally is paramount. You must also be a self-starter, sympathetic to the cultures of developing countries and personable to get on with a wide variety of people.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

Secretary/ Admin

We are a small industry society with a friendly atmosphere. You will need excellent secretarial and word processing skills. Accurate typing in WordPerfect 6.0W essential and a good working knowledge of Spreadsheets also required. Database experience a help. Self-Motivation an advantage. Salary package of c£16/17,000 including *BUPA*. Please reply in writing with CV to:

SIGTTO,17 St Helen's Place,
London EC3A 6DE.

Surrey PA

£20,000 neg

Our client has a newly *appointed Chief Exec* who needs a confident experienced PA to coordinate his extremely busy life. You will need to be a decision maker, free to travel occasionally & good at putting presentations together, including spreadsheets. Skills 90/60. Good Benefits.

Call 0171 493 2888

HERITAGE
RECRUITMENT

PA/ RESEARCHER

(£16,000 plus Bonus)

Well spoken, computer literate, experienced PA required to assist two directors in a busy corporate finance firm. Excellent organisational abilities are required along with a calm, discreet and happy disposition

CV and covering letter to:
Managing Director, Anglo European Amalgamations,
11 St James's Square,
SW1Y 4LB or
fax to 0171 930 2248.

PA/Sec - Staines
£17,000

Never a dull moment in this involving and varied role - PA/Sec to Head of Legal dept. Hold the fort in her absence, turn round documents in a flash & enjoy being a pro active & valued member of the team. W4Ws / audio essential. 2 mins from BR.

Tel: 0171 377 6777 Fax: 0171 377 5079

MIDDLETON JEFFERS
RECRUITMENT LIMITED

DTP OPs - LONDON EC4
£10.00ph + OT

City Bank req 9 DTP OPs for various shifts European Languages advantage. Exp on windows, excel, powerpoint, X train on systems. Familiar with graphics presentations. Call Browns Rec Ltd: 01438 747040
Fax CV 01438 747202
Intw to be held in London

THE TIMES
Crème
12-14 JUNE
'96

Secretary/ Receptionist

£18,000

Prestigious City insurance company require a confident and well-presented secretary to provide reception and secretarial support for two managers. A knowledge of Word for Windows, Amipro + 60wpm is required for this 50/50 role. **Please call Annabel Bingham on 0171 377 9919.**

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Recruitment Secretary

£15,000 + Gym + Exc Bens

The recruitment division of this international organisation requires an eager and committed team player to assist them. You will be arranging interview schedules, liaising with clients and candidates as well as preparing presentations and documentation to the highest standard. This exciting opportunity requires excellent secretarial and *organisational skills combined with enthusiasm* and initiative! Age 20-26, 50wpm, windows pkg. **Call Isobel on 0171 437 6032.**

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Get the appreciation you deserve!

£19,000 plus excellent benefits

Fast moving and rapidly expanding international company seeks a proactive, outgoing PA to work for one of its most charming partners. This is a traditional PA role for someone who is a born organiser with the ability to survive in a hectic environment. If you have the professionalism to deal at the highest level coupled with the sort of personality which would enjoy a good night out, you will enjoy this role and feel appreciated! Skills 90/60/word for windows. **Please call Caroline Galan to arrange an immediate interview 0171 437 6032.**

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Team Secretary

£16,000

Bright and calm secretary needed for a busy City Insurance company. You will get involved with clients on a daily basis, handle extensive travel arrangements and your own projects. You'll be a well organised, talented secretary with 55wpm typing, audio, Word for Windows and some shorthand. **Please call Sarah Dale on 0171 377 9919.**

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Rise To The Challenge!

£23,000 package

Our client, a leading international company is seeking a proactive, responsible secretary to support one of its dynamic senior directors and provide back-up to the team. Using your excellent organisational and communication skills you will find yourself involved in arranging complex travel itineraries, dealing with expat administration and liaising closely with important clients. Situated in fantastic offices you will enjoy a young, lively working environment and a good social life. This is a busy, involved PA role which requires someone with energy, enthusiasm and total commitment. A financial sector background will be an advantage. Age 24 - 35, 60wpm typing/windows package. **Please call Jane Shephard on 0171 437 6032.**

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

BI-LINGUAL PA

£20,000 + *BENS*

This is a definite career move! This international finance house has an opportunity for a secretary with a foreign language to support a busy Marketing Director. Duties will include extensive client liaison and travel co-ordination. The ideal candidate will be aged mid 20's with a warm and confident personality.

Please contact Melinda Marks.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd.,
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 1242

secretaries

TRADING FLOOR PA

TO £23,000 + *MS* + *BENS*

This is an urgent request for a senior PA aged 26 - 35 with banking experience to support a Senior Executive based on the Trading Floor of this high profile City Bank. Duties will include extensive administration of the department. Requirements include Word for Windows, Excel and shorthand skills.

Please contact Melinda Marks.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd.,
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 1242

secretaries

LONG/SHORT TERM TEMPS

If you have good secretarial skills (W4W / Ami Pro / Freelance; 50wpm), are looking for short or long term temp work, and the support of a helpful team, then call Darren Smyth at Tate Appointments on 0171 408 0424 NOW!

GROSVENOR

DYNAMIC DUO

ENTREPRENEUR - C£14,000 - Switched-on graduate needed to join small busy team in Holland Park working on tourism and leisure projects. 50+wpm typing, W4Ws and *6+ mths work experience. Initiative and organisational* skills ess.

USE YOUR FRENCH - C£13,500 - 2 charming bosses in growing Co are looking for a strong communicator, with initiative and the ability to 'hold the fort'. French used in day-to-day correspondence (A level + required). 50wpm typing, W4Ws.

GROSVENOR BUREAU
TEL: 0171 499 6566

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

HR Assistant
Media £17,000 + +

Excellent opportunity to work alongside young HR Manager of company specialising in the provision of results of television advertising to agencies and advertisers direct. Part of a blue-chip multinational, on offer is sponsorship through IPD examinations as well as the chance to work in a fast-moving media environment. Position will encompass a variety of HR admin tasks as well as secretarial duties and one year+ (preferably more) experience of secretarial/admin work is therefore essential. Minimum: 'A'-level educated, WP/spreadsheet/database experience (in particular MS office), excellent verbal and written communication skills required, PRP, STL etc.

SUSAN DOUGHTY RECRUITMENT
39A CURZON ST, LONDON W1Y 7RF
TEL: 0171-491 7911 FAX: 0171-491 7922

Personal Assistant
Pimlico to £20,000 aae

One-to-one PA role working with accomplished Search Consultant specialising in Executive level Public Sector recruitment. Largely autonomous with ample opportunity to utilise previous experience. Often working in isolation but enjoying extensive telephone liaison with potential candidates and Clients, giving progress and status reports as necessary. Responsibility for all office admin as well as meeting and greeting interviewees and administering psychometric tests. Plenty of variety and responsibility offered to mature PA ideally with ability to use both WordPerfect and Word for Windows. Shorthand useful. Excellent benefits including bonus.

SUSAN DOUGHTY RECRUITMENT
39A CURZON ST, LONDON W1Y 7RF
TEL: 0171-491 7911 FAX: 0171-491 7922

Secretary/Admin Assistant
c£17,000
2 month contract

Required for international lawyers close to Green Park in our small, friendly, non-smoking office. Legal experience not necessary but excellent WordPerfect 6.1 skills essential and accurate typing of 60+wpm. Please call Marion Dunn on 0171 499 8778 or fax your c.v. to 0171 499 7769

THE TIMES
Crème
12-14 JUNE
'96

ANTIQUES/ DANCE/ TV/ HOTELS

PA to help run arty mini conglomerate from eccentric Hampstead HQ. Must be quick/clever/peaceful/ flexible/creative.
CVs to 0171 435 2828.

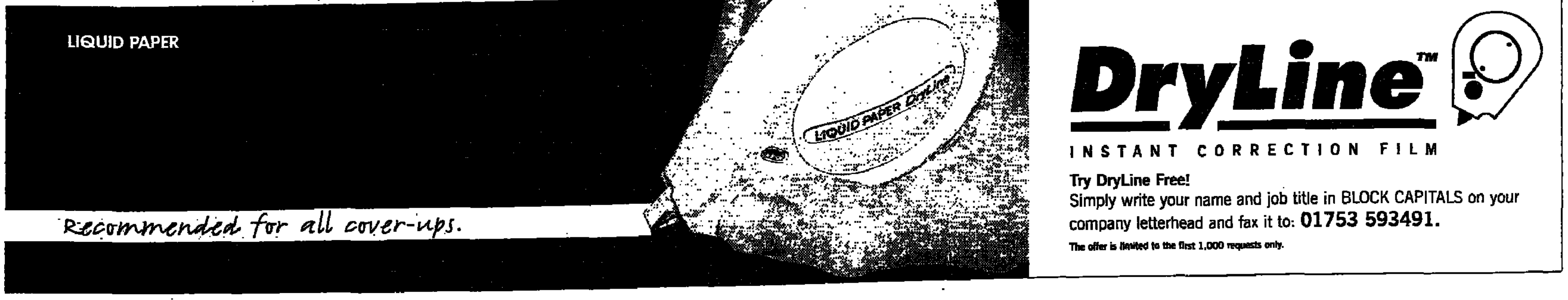
PA/Secretary

to the Chairman of growing exhibition design & event management company is required. We are looking for an organised, bright person to manage his busy, international schedule. Excellent telephone manner, good typing and wordprocessing, sense of humour and flexibility are all essential. Great opportunity for second or third job. Some travel involved, French an advantage. Salary negotiable according to age and experience.
Please send your C.V. and a hand written letter to Caroline Sargent, Button Eventures, 22 Percy Street,
London W1P 9FF.
No agencies.

ADMINISTRATOR/PA
SALARY c.£19K

Aged 27+ non-smoker. Highly organised individual with excellent grammer. Must be self-motivated, computer literate and able to work on own initiative. Would suit candidate with office supervisory experience for small but busy SW3 interior design company.

Send CV to: Leigh Carr, 27 Blandford Street,
London W1H 4EN
Ref: PG



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Try DryLine Free!
Simply write your name and job title in BLOCK CAPITALS on your company letterhead and fax it to: **01753 593491.**

The offer is limited to the first 1,000 requests only.

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 481 9994

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

FAX:
0171 481 9313

Flying Colours

SECRETARY/PA TO THE CHAIRMAN AND GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR

Working for a newly incorporated large tour operator from superb offices in Farringdon Street, EC4. You will be a confident and pro-active decision maker with excellent shorthand, typing and word processing skills. You will be over 25 and have already worked for a number of years at top management level with good organisational skills and with an ability to work on your own initiative.

As you will work for two dynamic and high profile directors, an ability to prioritise your workload is essential.

SECRETARY TO THE GROUP OVERSEAS DIRECTOR

We also require a mature and competent Personal Assistant to work for the Overseas Director. The successful applicant will be over 25 and possess first class time management and communications skills as you will be expected to run the Overseas Director's office during his frequent trips overseas.

A conversational knowledge of Spanish would be an advantage, although not essential.

2 JOB SHARE RECEPTIONISTS

This shared vacancy will arise in early April and we require two part-time Receptionists to answer the switchboard and cover full receptionist duties. This job will include general office duties such as stationery buying, post distribution and occasional secretarial back-up.

The Successful applicants will be mature, well presented and well spoken. The hours are 8am - 7pm but will be shared between the two applicants.

So if you are highly motivated, have excellent organisational skills and wish to further your career, please send your Curriculum Vitae to:

GERRY GRITZMAN
SERVICES MANAGER
FLYING COLOURS LEISURE GROUP
29-31 ELMFIELD ROAD
BROMLEY
KENT, BR1 1LT

TONBRIDGE

LEADING PA £18,000 + FOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCE & PROPERTY CO.

PLEASE CONFIRM BY HANDWRITTEN LETTER & CV. S/H SPEED & MINIMUM OF (1) 70 WPM TYPING, (2) FIN. &/OR PROP &/OR SMALL CO BACKGROUND. (3) GOOD A/C & COMPUTER SKILLS (4) N/S

TO FAX NO: 01732 743123.

W1 AD AGENCY

MD of small, creative ad agency needs a bright, enthusiastic, well spoken secretary with good WP skills. Other essential qualities include organisational ability and a sense of humour. Terrific opportunity for college leaver. Salary £12,000.

Call on
0171 439 1175

SECRETARY/ RECEPTIONIST
for
thriving West Kensington Estate Agency. Enthusiastic outgoing personality with skills in WP, W4W and administration

Competitive rates of pay

Reply to Patrick Glynn Jones, Mays West Kensington. 84 North End Road, London W14 9ES.
Tel: 0171 602 8511

BUYER'S ASSISTANT

Exclusive wedding list company needs a bright, accurate and numerate assistant.
Duties: liaising with suppliers, placing orders, stock and pricing. Good future prospects.

Letter and CV to:
WLC, Unit 6, Sulivan Enterprise Centre, Sulivan Road, London SW6 3DJ

A Classic PA..
Salary £25,000 + Benefits
Age: 28-40 yrs

...will have the confidence, flexibility and high standards to rise to the challenge of this true PA role. Working for the Head of an expanding financial company your duties will be a real mixture of business and personal work. Your day may consist of taking minutes, extensive travel arrangements or liaising with his family. Skills: 80/60wpm, Word for Windows, Excel. If you are self motivated, able to anticipate problems and have a solid financial CV please call Gill Tanner on 0171-390 7000.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

WA 20-22,000 + bonus + bens

PROACTIVE PA

Would you like a boss who is dynamic, young, hard-working and fun? The MD of a small, friendly finance company is desperately looking for a highly efficient, proactive and bright secretary to support mainly him but also two others, not only organising his hectic daily life but also having a full front line role and getting involved. S'hand and good WP skills a must.

0171 225 1888

VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

PA/SECRETARIES
c£16500
Five Weeks Holidays!

Our Client, a leading name in the international service sector, have interesting and demanding vacancies for first class secretaries in Marketing and Special Projects/Operations.
You will possess excellent communication and presentation skills. You will also be a superb organiser with the ability to co-ordinate various tasks efficiently and effectively, whilst maintaining a sense of style. Shorthand is useful. Knowledge of Windows package including graphics is essential.

For more information about these positions call Caroline Drew
0171 589 1866

THE ST. JAMES'S CONSULTANCY

P.A. /Senior Secretary

Senior Partner of a small but busy firm of Surveyors requires a P.A./administrator. As well as good W.P. skills (and preferably shorthand) you will be a good organiser/administrator and possibly have some knowledge of personnel. You will have a confident attitude together with excellent communication and client liaison skills.

Good salary and package for the right applicant. Please send full C.V. and covering letter together with salary level to:

Mr. R.D.C. Hunter, Hunters, 45 Ludgate Hill, London EC4R 7JU

(No agencies)

International Marketing
£30,000

A young charismatic MD of an international marketing company is looking for an exceptional senior level PA/Secretary to match his energy levels and dynamism.

With so many competing priorities, he relies totally on his PA to manage his time to maximum effect, to represent his views at all levels and to forge good relationships with other offices in Europe and the States. You must already be well versed in the requirements of running an MD's office, be an intelligent assistant, quick on the uptake, strong on both charm and ruthless efficiency who enjoys working in a partnership with a senior executive. Skills 100/60. Please call on:

0171–814 0800

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer
All applicants are positively welcomed.

Angela Mortimer

SEC/ADMIN
Maternity Post
(10 months)

Small property company in West Kensington requires accurate typist with good, confident telephone manner. General office duties. 10 am to 5.30 pm Monday to Friday. Salary: £12,000 (negotiable) Non-smoker.

Telephone 0171-603 7495.

MISON RECRUITMENT

CAREER OPPORTUNITY
Shorthand Secretary c£27K Pkg

This newly created, demanding yet rewarding role, supporting a Global Director who is exceptionally busy, requires first class shorthand and typing ability 100/70, excellent education and the initiative to hold you own in a very busy area. The core hours are 9.30 to 7.30, overtime paid and ideally you should be aged 21-25. If you are discreet, self motivated, confident and resilient and would enjoy working for one of the worlds leading international City based Banks who offer a benefits package second to none, telephone today for an immediate appointment.

WE ARE OPEN UNTIL 9.00 PM THIS EVENING!!
Fax 0171 583 1784 Fax 0171 583 3133

Corporate Finance
£30,000+
West End

Stylish, thriving financial institution has several vacancies for outstanding secretaries to support dynamic and demanding teams in fast moving client driven areas. These jobs call for those who have real energy, enthusiasm and drive. You will be expected to use your judgement to prioritise effectively and be confident working on your own initiative to demanding deadlines. Your full range of secretarial skills plus your ability to co-ordinate and organise will be stretched to the full. Being a perfectionist you will be keen to produce work of only the highest quality to be recognised as a key team member. Corporate Finance experience is essential as are good audio/copy typing, shorthand and WP experience. A' levels strongly preferred. Age 23 - 30. Please call Karen Levine on 0171-390 7000.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

WA £17-19,000 + O/T + bens

USE YOUR ASSETS!

Excellent opportunity to create your own role as you support two people within the marketing department of a high profile investment bank. They would love a secretary with initiative and drive who enjoys being delegated to and is a true team player to set up systems, take on added responsibilities and always remain one step ahead. Good sec skills (incl. Powerpoint pref), languages useful.

0171 225 1888

VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

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career moves

TELEVISION SECRETARY TO MANAGING DIRECTOR
c£18,000

If you can work at a frantic pace, keep calm, be incredibly organised whilst at the same time being flexible and using your professional secretarial skills (inc S/H at 80+wpm) to the full, then you could find a fulfilling role in this demanding office as part of a high profile team. Working alongside the MD's Executive Assistant you will liaise at the highest levels throughout the broadcasting industry. Ideally you will have about 3 years secretarial experience preferably within the broadcasting media world - so that you will have an idea of who's who, have worked at Director level, enjoy "team work" and take pride in your presentation.

124 Great Portland Street, London W1N 5PF.
Tel: 0171 636 6411. Fax: 0171 636 2457.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
£17,500

Interesting role for Secretary with Parliamentary expertise to assist H.O Dept with Research, budgets, projects and high profile interaction. 50 wpm typing / audio (shorthand ideal). Excellent benefits in Corporate office.

Ring Sandra Day
on 0171 235 7114

SUSAN HAMILTON PERSONNEL

■ Research Secretary / Assistant ■
£19,000 + Bank Bens

A fabulous opportunity to really get involved in the day to day running of a small high profile team of Investment Analysts. Strong secretarial skills are a must. Excellent chance to become truly involved and use your brain! The job will involve Research, admin. organising, (languages useful) Word, Excel, PowerPoint used.

Call Sarah Turnbull on 0171 588 8999

■ Broker's PA ■
£20,000 + Bank Bens

A new position within a well respected, young firm of city based brokers. Well educated secretary needed - lots of scope for advancement. High levels of client contact. Total involvement! Must be totally discreet, confident and charming with loads of initiative. Must have a highly organised mind. Word on Mac, Excel.

Call Emily Aldrich on 0171 588 8999

Aldrich & Co Ltd
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

WORKING

Executive PA in Films
c£20,000

Yes, this really is a non-fiction role working in the magical world of Film Production and Distribution. The Company is part of one of the World's giant Communications organisations which owns some of the great names in the Film business. You'll be working for a top notch American Executive who runs their European film distribution network. The business is run at a flat-out pace but with total calm and poise. You'll have to be a totally controlled individual who's used to working to tight deadlines, for a demanding boss. We're looking for excellent Secretarial skills, a minimum 3-4 years experience at director level, plus advanced Word, and Excel. A City Background is fine here, you don't need Film experience. age 24-35.

Call Nathalie or Wendy for an early audition on 0171-240 0040 or fax them on 0171-240 1989.
Curtain calls come later.
Working Girls Ltd, Professional Recruitment
17 Tavistock St, Covent Garden, London WC2E 7PA.

SOUTH MOLTON APPOINTMENTS

£20,000 + benefits
Top PA to PR Chief Exec

Are you 'organisational brilliance' personified?! This is a fun, high profile position supporting a dynamic lady who is in the middle of restructuring and building a big name in the consultancy business. In exciting and exacting times your first class initiative and ability to juggle an ever-changing diary will be vital. Secretarial content is minimal, client contact is high and thinking ahead is imperative. Shorthand or speed writing necessary.

£14,500
PR Team Assistant/Secretary

Are you a fun-loving team player with an interest in PR? This is a great job for a lively personality who loves talking to clients, organising a small team and keeping a finger on the pulse of business activities! 50wpm typing, excellent Word for Windows and mail merge needed along with a proactive approach to involvement.
One year's secretarial experience.

Contact Amanda Johnson
38, South Molton Street,
London, W1Y 1HA
Tel: 0171 495 8668
or Fax: 0171 499 8344

PA Directors
£22,000 + Benefits
West End

An international company with a regional office in London seeks a dynamic PA who is looking for a position which will offer them plenty of scope. The ideal candidate should have the following skills:

- excellent organisation and communication skills
- Word for Windows, Excel and Powerpoint
- shorthand 90 wpm with good written English
- familiarity with information systems advantageous

If you fulfill the above criteria please call Julie Gainsborough-Waring on 0171-434 4512 to discuss the opportunities this company has to offer.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

TEAM SEC/ COORDINATOR

As PA (25++) to the sales team of this young, expanding fashion co., you will be involved in everything from Buyers to Bosses across the board! c18,000.00 max

JOYCE GUINESS PARTNERSHIP
0171 589 8807
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA to MD

You too can be a supportive person in this fast-moving private surgery. Looking after the MD, the admin, the patients & the Practice Coordinator all your skills will blend! c£15,000.00

JOYCE GUINESS PARTNERSHIP
0171 589 8807
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

FUTURES RECRUITMENT
Part of the GE Group

PA to MD **£negotiable**
★ An experienced and competent graduate PA with a high level of initiative is sought to assist the MD of this Guildford based company in all areas of work, ensuring smooth and efficient running of the offices and his life ★ A good communicator with a strong character and used to making high level contacts, you will have formal secretarial training (to RSA III) and a knowledge of AppleMacs and MS-DOS/Windows PCs *Ref. PO373*

Administrators **£negotiable**
★ Bright, enthusiastic administrators required for busy offices in Guildford and Farnham ★ Must be highly organised, flexible and like working with people ★ A level English is essential and graduates are preferred *Ref. PO372*

Temps **£ excellent/per hour**
We have long and short-term temporary contracts in the Guildford area for people with the following skills:
★ Word/Wordperfect for Windows 6.1 ★ Wordperfect 5.1
★ Applemac experience ★ Excel 5.0 ★ Powerpoint
★ Shorthand/Audio ★ Reception/Switchboard

FRES MEMBER *If you are interested in any of the above positions, or would like further details on registering for permanent or temporary work please contact one of of our consultants.*

16-19 Chapel Street, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 3LU
Tel: (01483) 302201 Fax: (01483) 34777

TOP SECRETARY/PA
circa £28,000

Is there anybody out there who is London based, a non-smoker and who wants to work as a member of a small, happy team in the Holborn Circus area?

I need somebody who is good natured with total integrity, completely trustworthy and educated to 'A' level standard. Must also be numerate, Window literate and have Pitman S/H 100 wpm. Age 26-38.

Please phone me on:
0171 404 3111
NO AGENCIES

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Renowned, modern Italian restaurant in West London needs a capable person with substantial experience of the following skills:

- * Computer accounting
- * Spreadsheets
- * Word processing
- * Office administration/PA duties

Minimum ten years' experience essential, preferably within the restaurant trade.

Salary negotiable aae.

Please telephone 0171 831 3609 (Monday to Thursday between 10.00am and 4.00pm) or write with CV to: Lani Herdman, Lee Associates, 6 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5DG.

AMERICAN CO - DYNAMIC ENV £19K PACKAGE
An international PA req to co-ordinate a team. Energy & commitment a priority as well as a successful track record in supporting/ organising and prioritising for a team. Call Amanda Richardson.

PROPERTY INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT £18-19K + PENSION/BUPA
Proactive professional req for a super friendly co. Diary management, top level liaison, international travel. W4W/Powerpoint. Call Jacqui Hener.

STENO WITH STYLE For W1 Management Consultants Call Amanda or Jacqui

TEL: 0171 235 9060

CORPORATE PR & MARKETING £17K + BENEFITS
Provide PA support in fab surroundings using SH & assist with organising conferences, oversee corporate identity & produce presentation material. Enjoy handling press announcements and being encouraged to voice your ideas/ opinions on dept activities. Call Jackie Mills.

PA IN PROPERTY RETAIL GROUP £19,000 + EXC BENS
Be a key team member dealing with solicitors, developers and key people in retail as you assist in the major acquisitions planned for this well known group. Superb opp for a professional, proactive PA/Sec with relevant exp, some audio and SH useful (not ess). Call Marie-Therese Foley.

TEL: 0171 831 6666.

DRAKE INTERNATIONAL

Personnel Appeal?
Age: 21-28
to £19000 + banking pkg

Prestigious US Investment Bank, based in Canary Wharf, currently have two highly administrative secretarial vacancies in their Personnel department. Both roles are very involving and require resilience, flexibility (to work long hours) and a proactive approach. Typing will be minimal but organising must be your forte; as just a few of your duties will include circulating CV's, setting up interviews, liaising with ExPats, compiling reports and dealing with expenses. Experience: Open. Skills: 60wpm and Windows. Please call Claire Ashley on 0171-390 7000 for further information.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

PA in PR?

If you've outgrown your first job & want to use your experience & skills to look after a busy Director of the team, you will blossom in this leading consultancy. Pro-active environment & lots of scope. c£15,000.00

JOYCE GUINESS PARTNERSHIP
0171 589 8807
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

FIRST JOBBER
c£12,000.00

We have three exciting openings for first jobbers in charity, marketing & party organising. So if you have basic WP skills & 'A' Levels call us now.

JOYCE GUINESS PARTNERSHIP
0171 589 8807
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

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career moves

OPENINGS IN PR AND MARKETING SECRETARIES
£12,000-15,000

If you have always wanted to work within the Public Relations or Marketing field but have been caught in the trap of not having the right experience- this could be your opportunity to make your mark in a top International Consultancy. They currently have several vacancies due to expansion and promotion for bright group secretries with GCSE/Alev education (graduates must enjoy secretarial work). 50wpm typ and a min of 6 months work experience. You will learn about all aspects of PR, deal with journalists, set up events etc. Good communication skills and presentation essential.

124 Great Portland Street, London W1N 5PF.
Tel: 0171 636 6411. Fax: 0171 636 2457.

COX & KINGS TRAVEL

Specialist tour operator to the Indian Subcontinent, Latin America & The Middle East requires:

MARKETING ASSISTANT
£12,000 pa

Assisting in advertising, promotions, agency sales, public relations.
Must be able to start by end Feb.

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT
£10,000 pa

Assisting in sales and operations. Must be able to start immediately.

Applicants for both positions must be computer literate with good writing skills, fast and accurate typing skills and an excellent telephone manner. Previous experience not essential.

Applications in writing only, with CV to Jenny Hand, Cox & Kings, 4th Floor, Gordon House, 10 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1PH.

CAREER IN RECRUITMENT THE OPPORTUNITY FOR 1996....

Due to phenominal growth we are busier than ever and are looking for experienced and trainee consultants to join our friendly and professional company.

We offer a training and career development programme that is second to none. To qualify you should be well educated (min 'A' levels), hard working, flexible, charming, and a genuine team player with excellent communication skills and personal presentation.

To succeed and enjoy this challenging and dynamic environment, we look for individuals who are innovative and self-motivated, with the potential for rapid personal development to satisfy their ambitions.

Please apply in writing enclosing your CV quoting ref BL96 to Belinda Lighton, Knightsbridge Secretaries, Granville House, 132-135 Sloane Street, London SW1 9AX (or by Fax: 0171 235 3666) by 3 February 1996.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES

PERSONNEL DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR
LONDON W1
c £21K plus excellent bens

to provide a database centre for HR teams of a major plc. Autonomous, challenging role with senior level contact groupwide. "A" Levels, well developed PC skills, knowledge of database maintenance, good eye for detail, strong inter-personal skills.

Please fax your CV or telephone
Fax: 0181 847 5208 Tel: 0181 568 5516

JANETTE TEAGER & ASSOCIATES
Human Resource Management Consultants

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
WEST OF LONDON
c£27-28K + Benefits

our client, a major international plc, seeks an Exec Assistant for one of its Executive Directors.
Essential criteria: excellent communication, secretarial skills and personal presentation. Min 'A' Level education.
PC literate: W4W, Excel, Powerpoint.

Please fax your CV in the first instance to Jan Teager
Fax: 0181 847 5208 Tel: 0181 568 5516

JANETTE TEAGER & ASSOCIATES
Human Resource Management Consultants

LETTINGS NEGOTIATOR

Anscombe & Ringland is one of London's leading Estate Agents with an enviable reputation.

A rare opportunity exists for a bright young, preferably a graduate to join our dynamic St Johns Wood Residential Lettings team as a negotiator.

You will be in your 20's, energetic, articulate, numerate, highly organised and a car driver. Previous experience is not required. Living locally would be an advantage.

We offer the best training in our industry together with an attractive salary package and long term career prospects.

Please forward your CV to :Lisa F Ryde,
Anscombe & Ringland, 88 St Johns Wood High Street,
St Johns Wood,London NW8 7SH.

Personnel
Croydon
£21,000

Group Personnel director of this highly prestigious company needs a bright, proactive secretary with experience in personnel. You will be working as part of a highly motivated team, the ability to work accurately and efficiently under pressure is paramount to ensure your success in this role. Excellent skills (60wpm) and a thorough knowledge of a Windows package and Lotus are essential. If you are motivated by success and enjoy setting your own goals then please call Sonia Nair on 0171-434 4512.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

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cancer research campaign

For 70 years the Cancer Research Campaign has been bringing together doctors, scientists and the public in the fight against cancer, with a far reaching programme which represents a third of all cancer research conducted in the UK.

We are curently seeking an exceptional candidate who can demonstrate outstanding secretarial and administrative skills.

Executive Assistant to the Director
Scientific Department/ Office Manager
£18,023 per annum

If you are currently working in a senior P.A. role, we have an excellent opportunity for a bright, enthusiastic individual. As an efficient and experienced administrator you will be responsible for providing the Director of our Scientific Department with a high level of secretarial and administrative support. This will involve supervising secretarial work for the department and liaising, on behalf of the Director, with outside bodies. You must have previous experience of working in an office management or supervisory role. Be confident, diplomatic and able to work under pressure in a hectic environment. Experience of Microsoft Word and FileMaker Pro (or similar packages) would be a useful advantage.

In addition to the above salary, we offer a contributory pension scheme and 25 days annual leave. The Campaign is committed to becoming an Equal Opportunity employer and has a no smoking policy.

Please send an up to date CV with a covering letter to the Personnel Section, Cancer Research Campaign, 10 Cambridge Terrace, London, NW1 4JL, Tel 0171 224 1333. Closing date: 5 February 1996.
Charity No. 225838

Fighting cancer on all fronts

SHEILA CHILDS RECRUITMENT

£27,000 City

Not for the work shy but definitely for the career P.A. to an unusually young and stimulating environment, this high profile company operates at the core of the City's major trading activities. The Chief Executive who has a great sense of fun is a hugely energetic workaholic. As his right hand you will need to be committed, sharply positive and always on the ball. With previous board level experience and first class skills - 100/60 - your happy and humourous disposition will lead to a role of intense variety, extensive social contact and job satisfaction. Age 25-36.

4 Ganton Street, London W1
Telephone : 0171 437 3111 Fax: 0171 437 4050

مكرر من الأصل

H.R. PROFESSIONALS

CREST IS A MAJOR RESTUCTURING OF UK SETTLEMENTS.

CREST WILL EFFECT SALARIES, STAFFING, SKILLS TRAINING AND YOUR BUDGETS.

ON 9th APRIL 1996 LIVE TRIALS OF CREST BEGIN
ON 15th JULY 1996 CREST WILL COMMENCE OPERATIONS

WHAT IS CREST?

HOW CAN YOU PREPARE FOR CREST?

WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF CREST ON YOUR HR DEPARTMENT?

ROC RECRUITMENT in conjunction with THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES

Presents a Breakfast briefing on CREST,
how it will affect the City, your Firm and you as an HR Professional
on
Wednesday 31st January 1996 at The Brewery, Chiswell Street, London EC1
betweeen 8.30am - 9.30am.

Speakers will include representatives from the BANK OF ENGLAND and Major City Firms.

We hope you will be able to join us. Breakfast will be served at 8.00am. To reserve your place, call Analise Moore on 0171 256 9040

Interested in Customer Care?

PA To Chief Executive

Salary £16,738 (Inc. LWA)

Thames Housing Association is an organisation with charitable status providing affordable, quality housing to people in need. We currently own more than 1,500 properties housing some 4,500 tenants across ten South London Boroughs, as well as managing over 250 private sector properties through a variety of initiatives.

We are looking for an experienced person to provide a comprehensive and effective administrative and secretarial service to the Chief Executive. You will be involved in a diverse range of activities including Committee administration, information management and PR. You will also play a key role in the move to our new office in Balham Hill early in 1996.

The candidate will:

- Have at least 3 years secretarial/administrative experience, preferably at a senior level;
- Education to at least A level standard and the possession of an NVQ Stage 3 level secretarial/administrative qualification (or equivalent) is desirable;
- Have excellent keyboard skills of at least 60 w.p.m.
- Have a keen interest in and wide ranging experience of computer software. Advanced Windows wordprocessing skills are essential. Knowledge and experience of spreadsheets, desk top publishing and database packages is desirable;
- Have an understanding of Committee administration. Minute taking skills are essential;
- Be confident and self reliant with good communication and interpersonal skills as well as the ability to deal with a variety of people at different levels.

Conditions of service include: Non contributory pension scheme; flexi-time; 24 days annual leave plus four concessionary days at Christmas; non smoking work environment.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 9.00am on 7 February 1996. Initial tests will be held on 14/15 February and successful candidate will be interviewed on 20 February.

For job description and application form contact: Thames Housing Association, 22 Ritherdon Road, London SW17 8QD. Tel: 0181 767 4877 (24 hr answerphone). CV's are NOT acceptable.

THAMES HOUSING ASSOCIATION LIMITED

DESIGN c£18-£25K
Project Co-ordinators
Extensive liaison with clients & creative teams, oversee budgets & design projects, co-ordinate meetings assist with production & ensure that deadlines are met. Exciting & challenging roles for intelligent individuals (A'level/Grad) preferred with design related work experience & MAC skills. 50+ typ. Languages adv. particularly GERMAN.
Reyds Raphael Rec
0171 287 2050

GO GLOBAL! ADMIN/ORG £17,500+++
You will be a good organiser, enjoy admin & take initiative when you act as Sec. to this colourful partner on the overseas desk. Based in London's most respected Man Consultancy, your sec skills must inc. S/H 90WPM. Would suit grad with outgoing personality.
Ring Norma Skemp Rec.
0171 222 5091.

SECRETARY

Bright and personable young person required for one of the busiest Estate Agents in London. Good typing speeds and a stable background are essential. Salary £13,000 with reviews.

TEL: REF SL/FS
0171 229 2404

SOUTH KENSINGTON ESTATE AGENTS
Busy Estate Agents require secretary. S/h & Wordperfect exp. ess. £16,000 - £18,000 aae.
Pl call ref. SM/CG
0171 589 1244

LONDON

ADMINISTRATOR

£15,408 - £16,683 P.A. INC.

LOOKING FOR A CHALLENGE IN FUNDRAISING?

An exciting opportunity currently exists for an ambitious and energetic Administrator who is interested in pursuing a career in fundraising. You will be undertaking projects for the Deputy Director of Appeals and the Regional Appeals Management Team while ensuring that the administrative and secretarial needs of the Deputy Director of Appeals are met.

You will need to be tactful and diplomatic in your approach, and will act with discretion and integrity at all times. Flexible and well-organised you will enjoy working on your own initiative to tight deadlines, and will welcome the opportunity to develop and maintain effective administrative systems which are responsive to constant change.

Naturally, you will be a first class communicator with excellent administrative and interpersonal skills looking for challenge and autonomy in your role. Experience of dealing with people of all levels is essential along with fast, accurate copy/audio typing, minute taking and wp skills.

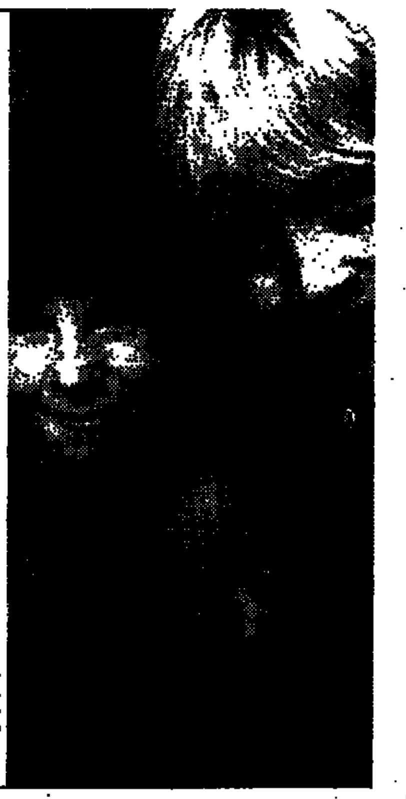
Benefits include a non-contributory pension scheme, 25 + 2 days annual leave and LVs.

For an application form and information pack send a large self-addressed envelope to: Victoria Wallop, Ref: NCO/91, NSPCC, 42 Curtain Road, London, EC2A 3NH. Closing date for completed applications: 14th February 1996.

The NSPCC is committed to equal opportunities.

EXISTS TO PREVENT CRUELTY TO CHILDREN

NSPCC



Photography by Matt Harris

Executive Secretary

Sandoz Pharmaceuticals (UK) Ltd is a fast growing highly successful subsidiary of a major global pharmaceutical company. Its business is to research, develop, manufacture and market innovative prescription medicines.

We are now looking for an independent and professional PA/Secretary to support our UK Managing Director at our UK Headquarters on the Frimley Business Park, Surrey.

Able to think on your feet, you will not be fazed by the prospect of managing the office in the MD's absence and taking a proactive role in the company. You will be good at prioritising your workload and be keen to work to a high standard on your own initiative.

Computer literacy is absolutely vital, particularly in Wordperfect 5.1, Freelance Graphics, Lotus 123 and Excel. And whilst we don't expect you to be a technical expert, we are looking for someone who is genuinely interested in the system and keen to get the maximum from it.

If you're friendly, outgoing and can demonstrate a very good standard of secretarial skills (including first-class shorthand), then we want to hear from you. In return, we offer a competitive package commensurate with our position as a leading company within the industry.

Please apply in writing to: Mrs Leonie Walker, Human Resources Department, Sandoz Pharmaceuticals (UK) Limited, Frimley Business Park, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey GU16 5SG. Closing date for all applications is 1st February 1996.

SANDOZ

SECRETARY/PA TO HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

£17,000 - £21,000 pa

The BMA is the professional association for doctors and engages in a range of activities including publishing, policy drafting, making representation to government and providing employment advice to members. We have 580 employees and therefore a busy HR department

An exceptional and rare opportunity has arisen for a first class PA to work for the Head of Human Resources. Candidates must have highly developed organisational skills and be well versed in arranging meetings and conferences. Fast and accurate shorthand/typing skills are essential as is the ability to produce written work and to work independently using initiative and discretion. Minute taking experience, knowledge of the HR function and experience of WordPerfect 6.1 would be an advantage but is not essential.

Please send a CV, together with covering letter to:
Ann Coyne, Human Resources Department,
British Medical Association,
BMA House, Tavistock Square,
London WC1H 9JP.

We are unable to acknowledge all applications and only those selected for interview will be contacted.

BMA

CLOSING DATE: 2 FEBRUARY 1996

PERSONAL ASSISTANT* *£24,000

This is a demanding but fulfilling position for a calm and capable secretary who can co-ordinate a busy team and related administration. There will be conference organising and the production of in-house magazine and other documentation to a very high standard. A role with involvement and excellent prospects. Typing 60wpm. Applemac, MS Word, Powerpoint.

IMMEDIATE START* *£21,000

A progressive company which resolves problems by creating ingenious software has an opportunity for a board level PA/Secretary. Responsibilities including seminars and supplier negotiation would be best handled by an assertive, independent thinker. A stable cv and previous board level experience is essential. Wordperfect 6 advantageous.

DEALS ON WHEELS!* *£21,000

The Chief Executive of a transport oriented financial organisation in SE1 needs a communicative PA to arrange board meetings with chairmen (m/f) and politicians with whom be deals and to answer enquiries from members of the public. The involvement offered goes far beyond the typing aspect and would be ideal for an interested, dedicated and efficient person. Skills 80/55, 'A' level/degree, W4W. Age 30-40.

Please telephone 0171-628 9529

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Customer Service Subscriptions

The Good Book Guide is a successful mail order company publishing a review magazine which markets books and videos to customers worldwide. We need an experienced subscriptions administrator to provide the primary contact point for our subscribers, especially those who have recently joined, ensuring they are aware of the full range of our services.

You will need a good general education (especially English and Geography) and computer and keyboard skills (min. 50 wpm). Excellent telephone manner essential. Languages an asset. Salary c £12,000 + benefits.

If you want to join a friendly team committed to quality of service, please write with your CV to Mary Sutherland, Personnel, The Good Book Guide, 24 Seward Street, London EC1V 3PB.

THE GOOD BOOK GUIDE

RICHMOND

THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN LONDON

SENIOR SECRETARY & PROGRAM ASSISTANT

KENSINGTON CAMPUS

Salary c£15,500 pa plus excellent benefits.
To assist the Director in the administration of graduate & undergraduate internship (work experience) programs, involving all aspects of office administrative support systems, updating of company & placement information, liaising with companies & supporting the Assistant Director. The University emloys staff of any race, colour & national or ethnic origin.
Closing date: 29 January 1996.

CV's & letters of application to Director Personnel Services, Richmond, The American International University in London, Queens Road, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6JP.
Tel: 0181 332 8237. Fax: 0181 332 0128

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE TO £23,000 aae + BONUS

Support these super Senior Partners who are two in a million. Early thirties and fun, they are looking for an enthusiastic secretary who, in addition to using her first class skills, will develop a real interest in their work and clients. W4Ws & min 3yrs in City essential. Excel would be nice. Will cross-train on Powerpoint.

CITY 0171 377 6777 FAX 0171 377 5079

MIDDLETON JEFFERS
RECRUITMENT LIMITED

ST JAMES'S COLLEGE

LEARN NEW SKILLS AND REFRESH OLD ONES

Short flexible courses in keyboarding and Teeline shorthand.

Software training at introductory and advanced level in MS Word 6.0 for Windows, WordPerfect 6.0 for Windows, AmiPro for Windows, MS Excel 5.0 for Windows and MS Powerpoint offered on a regular basis.

4 Wetherby Gardens, London SW5 0JN
Tel: 0171 244 6700

QUALITY AND DISTINCTION IN BUSINESS PRACTICE
A Member of The Corporate Services Group plc

PERSONAL ASSISTANT/SECRETARY

Salary range to £18,000 per annum

We are looking for a well-organised PA/Secretary to work for two Assistant Directors and their teams in a busy, friendly environment.

Candidates must have excellent audio/WP skills using Wordperfect for Windows (preferably version 6.1 but upgrade training is available). A flexible approach to working hours and to assisting the rest of the Secretarial team is essential.

Our offices are located in Westminster within walking distance of St.James's Park and Westminster underground stations and Victoria mainline station.

Benefits include flexible working hours, interest-free season ticket loan, 22 days' holiday rising to 25 after one year's service and an excellent pension scheme.

Interested candidates should telephone 0171-976 7593 (24 hour answerphone) for an application pack, quoting reference 09/96/1. The closing date for receipt of completed applications forms is Monday 12 February 1996.

TRAFFIC DIRECTOR FOR LONDON

The Traffic Director for London is an equal opportunities employer. Strictly no agencies.

GERMAN FASHION £25000 Middlesex

Dynamic MD of this growing international fashion company is offering a chic German mother-tongue PA a wonderful opportunity! You must be supremely reliable, have a mature outlook and be tactful and willing to be totally involved in all aspects of the company's growth. Some European travel will be necessary. Fast Word 4 Windows essential. Age 25 - 40.

PLEASE CALL 0171 373 7779
JIGSAW
RECRUITMENT

FASHION SALES to £17500 W.1.

Larger-than-life sales director of expanding international fashion manufacturer needs a secretary/administrator. You'll be 'on the ball', reliable and a confident person who thrives in a hectic yet friendly sales environment. The emphasis is on admin but you'll also need fast copy typing & computer literacy at times. Age 25-34.

PLEASE CALL 0171 373 7779
JIGSAW
RECRUITMENT

RITZ RECRUITMENT

11 12 HANOVER STREET, LONDON W1R 9HF

TEL: 0171 629 4343
FAX: 0171 491 2972

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

£25,000 Package + CO. Car Scheme

Ritz Recruitment is a privately owned recruitment organisation which has developed a first class reputation in the secretarial/WP/clerical market. Our success in 1995 has surpassed all expectations and we therefore have a need to recruit further consultants.

The ideal applicant will have a minimum of 6 months agency experience and be keen to forge a career in a young progressive environment where talent and ideas are encouraged. With highly tuned customer services abilities and a clear understanding of sales, your brief will be to expand one of our highly successful desks. To assist you, you will be ale to take advantage of our fully computerised recruitment system and one of the best advertising profiles in the industry.

In addition to a high basic salary you will recieve a generous bonus system plus the opportunity to gain a fully expensed company car.

Contact Catherine Delaney or Colin Hush on 0171 629 4343 or fax a copy of your CV. Evening/Weekends contact no: 01582 492659.

PA/SECRETARY c. £17,000 p.a.

Busy trading office in London SE26 seeks to appoint a well spoken, responsible and helpful person with excellent secretarial skills to assist MD. An 'A' Level in English or Mathematics, Multisoft Premier Accounting System & Microsoft Office Professional experience useful. Non smoking office. Please send hand-written letter with CV to:

Mrs L Graham, Imporient UK Ltd,
54 Willow Way,
London SE26 4QP
Telephone 0181 699 0511

No Agencies

MULTI-LINGUAL OPPORTUNITIES

MATERNITY CONTRACT ITALIAN SPEAKING SEC

TO £16,000 (pro-rated)

Sought by small, friendly Intnl Drinks export Co in W1 for initial 6 mnth cover. START mid Feb Fluent Italian (other Euro langs an adv) 40 wpm typing + Audio. Age 25+

The Language Business
0171 379 3189
(Rec Cons).

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

for senior telecom exec. Admin support, calendar, schedule meetings and travel. General office duties. W4W, Excel, e-mail. Fluency in Spanish/French a must. 2 years exp. Excellent remuneration package.
Fax cv & salary requirements to:
0171 589 6333

BILINGUAL Spanish Account Mgr for maj Finance Co Must read balance sheets, have gd communication/ commercial skills & drive. £18K excl bens. Language Recruitment Services 0171 287 0424

BILINGUAL German PA/Office Admin to run office of Int'l Media Co Client Liaison. VAT/ Inland Rev & gen office mgmt £20K Language Recruitment Services 0171 287 0424.

BILINGUAL French Accts Admin. for fashion Co Exp of double entry/ nominal ledgers client liaison. £17K Language Rec Services 0171 287 0424

BILINGUAL French Sec. S/H ess. £12K Language Recruitment Services 0171 287 0424

BUCKS & Middx - 2 x PA/Secs. Fluent French to £20K for International Blue Chip Cos Call Euro London Apps 0171 629 6269 Fax 0171 629 6565.

FRENCH Spking Bilingual Sec to £17,000 to assist UK Director of large French Corporation. SW1. Min 2 yrs sec experience Good typing + windows. Age 28+ The Language Business 0171 379 3189 (Rec Cons)

SENIOR DATA AQUISITION languages City EXP 26/35 £25K LS AGY 0181 455 8922

SCHOOL SECRETARY

Headmistress' Secretary needed for this small, friendly Independent Girls' School close to Sloane Square. It is an interesting and varied job in a very busy office. You will need to be an excellent communicator to deal with staff, parents, and girls aged 4 to 18. You will also need exceptional organisational and administration skills, word processing and audio typing.

The hours are 9.30-5.30, Monday to Friday, in term time, and very much shorter during school holidays. Salary c. £17,000 + pension, with excellent holidays.

Please send c.v. and handwritten covering letter to The Headmistress, Francis Holland School, 39 Graham Terrace, London SW1W 8JF, giving the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two referees, by Monday February 5th. Interviews will take place on Monday, February 12th.

No agencies or telephone enquiries please.

SENIOR SECRETARY

An experienced Senior Secretary with a professional background is required for a leading international Executive Search firm with an expanding London office. Working for two partners, the position will suit a flexible individual with high standards of presentation and accuracy. Excellent typing, audio and shorthand speeds required with experience of Wordperfect 5.1 preferred. The ability to work under pressure and to meet deadlines is essential.

Please reply in writing enclosing c.v. in confidence quoting reference JR/0101 to Berndtson Paul Ray, 5 Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HR.

PA TO MANAGING DIRECTOR (6 months contract/maternity cover)

We're an advertising agency based in Knightsbridge looking for an extremely calm, well organised and experienced PA, capable of providing secretarial support whilst our current PA is on maternity leave. Responsibilities include internal and external liaison, managing diaries and dealing with ad hoc administrative duties. Minimum of 5 years senior secretarial experience AmiPro/Freelance Graphics, 100 wpm shorthand and 70 wpm typing. Please telephone Sue Emmett on 0171 581 1455

EXECUTIVE PA/FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR c.20-23,000 SW1

Applications are invited from ambitious and motivated graduates to join dynamic, rapidly expending international leasing company as PA to Chief Executive. Essential skills and qualities to include ability to manage cash flow and financial transactions from bank transfers to assisting in the development of new structured financial facilities with international banks; book keeping, fluent knowledge of simple computerised accounts systems to audit preparation and administration of PAYE, VAT plus credit analysis. Additional duties include travel arrangements and office administration. Must be confident, numerate, computer literate, impeccably presented, able to take initiative, responsibility and pressure. Commitment will be rewarded. PPP and bonus. Age 24-28 maximum.

Please forward Curriculum Vitae and introductory letter to: Lucy Williams, Bond International (UK) Limited, 4th Floor, 62 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HZ.

Chartered Institute of Taxation Associateship exams, November 1995

Awards

The Institute Medal for the best overall performance. Ian Anthony William Sandles (Touche Ross & Co, London)

The Ian Walker Medal for the best overall performance in the paper on Tax Administration, Professional Responsibilities and Ethics. Bruce Albert Elrick (BDO (Scotland) Services Ltd, Glasgow)

The Stanley Spofforth Medal for the paper on Personal Tax and Trust Taxation. Paula Coggins (The Horniman Museum & Public Park Trust, London)

The John Wood Medal for the paper on Business Taxation. Malcolm Greenbaum (BPP Accountancy Courses, London)

The Avery Jones Medal for the paper on Practical Implications, Interaction and Tax Planning. Robert John Adams (Coopers & Lybrand, Liverpool)

The Butterworth Prize for the highest total marks. Ian Anthony William Sandles (Touche Ross & Co, London)

Distinctions

Robert John Adams (Coopers & Lybrand, Liverpool): Paula Coggins (The Horniman Museum & Public Park Trust, London): Malcolm Greenbaum (BPP Accountancy Courses, London): Elaine Patricia Herbert (Legal & General Group plc, London): Michael Colin Herbert (KPMG, Manchester): Ian Anthony William Sandles (Touche Ross & Co, London)

† Prizewinner
* Distinction

†*Adams R J (Chester): Agnew D S (Edinburgh): Allen M H (Belfast): Anstey S L (Surbiton): Appleton M (Basingstoke): Aston T (London): Atkins M J (Hatfield): Aughterson J R (Woking).

Baldwyn N (London): Bale N S (Hemel Hempstead): Ballesta P I (Liversedge): Barker N J (London): Barnes G E (Sutton Coldfield): Barton D R (Birmingham): Bellew J L (Bristol): Benham H D (Basingstoke): Bennett M C (London): Bird E H (Southampton): Birdi J S (Leamington Spa): Blair G J (South Croydon): Boatman I A P (Clacton-on-Sea): Boldra K A (Great Yarmouth): Boothroyd-Brooks H C G (London): Bosanko C C (North Shields): Brimm A M (London): Brooks K J (Crowborough): Brown N J (Manchester): Brown S L (Fareham): Bubbear S (Southampton): Bywater D (Bath).

Campbell A (Billericay): Capon G R (Bristol): Carey B (Sittingbourne): Carruthers F M K (Edinburgh): Cheung D C F (London): Childers H M (London): Clark E M B (London): Cockrem R I (Twickenham): †*Coggins P (London): Collins E A (Liverpool): Conway E S R (Liverpool): Cossins C J (Croydon): Costello D F (London): Cowdell J N E (Keighley): Cumpson C (Houghton Le Spring).

Darby E A (London): Daultrey L (Chigwell): Davies C E (Holywell): Dooley D A (Oldham): Doust C H (Purley): Downing W (Crawley): Duncan A E (Belfast): Dykes I F (Coventry).

Eastham R W (Preston): Edgar T (St Albans): Edwards S J (Hove): Egginton A E (Dawlish): Ellaway R G (Malvern): †Elrick B A (Glasgow): Emery M (Newcastle upon Tyne): Evans C J (Halesowen): Ewens S C (Bristol).

Farr D G (Southampton): Farr K O (Ormskirk): Fields P A (Liverpool): Fisher N R (Ulverston): Fleming A P (Harrow): Ford N R (Leicester): Frais A R (London): Fulton K (Largs).

Gadd K J (Stoke-on-Trent): Galway C D (London): Geller D V (Pinner): Ghotra G (Hounslow): Gilpin W E (Ormskirk): Goddon A (Leatherhead): Golding J C (Sevenoaks): Grady A (Epsom): Granger E J P (Manchester): Grant L (Newcastle upon Tyne): Gray H M (Aberdeen): †*Greenbaum M (Luton): Griffiths C F (Guildford): Griffiths K A (Bridgend).

Haig A (Perth): Hargreaves E R (Burnley): Harris C L (London): Harris M L (Southampton): Harrop N C (Manchester): Heath M R (London): Heaven S M (London): Henderson N A (London): *Herbert E P (South Croydon): *Herbert M C (Lancaster): Hernon J L (Sale): Hillan D A (Manchester): Hobson D C (Thirsk): Howarth K A (London): Hoy J A (Birmingham): Hughes L H (Manchester): Hutchings T A E C (London).

Ioannou L (Stoke-on-Trent).

Jack V (Edinburgh): James M O (Nottingham): Jeffery A J (London): Jenner M L (Northampton): Johnson E M (Glasgow): Johnson T R (Barnet): Julleekeea R K (Thornton Heath): Juner R (Edinburgh).

Kaveney J (Nottingham): Kelly A M (Camberley): Kinge V J (Farnham): Knevett H M (Staines).

Lacey J D (Bristol): Laing A E (London): Lee B J (Chelmsford): Little M M (London): Longley A C (London): Lundberg A J (Uxbridge): Lush T J (Reading): Lyon S K (Weston-Super-Mare).

Mallon T J (Gateshead): Mann S J (London): Marques J P S (Ilford): Martin J L (Bromley): Maskrey H M (London): McAree C E (London): McDonald A M (Livingston): McElroy C L (Colchester): McGhee K V (Dumbarton): McLaughlin R F (Nottingham): McLaughlin S P (London): McLernon M (London): McQuade T (Slough): Meredith S R W (Wells): Micallef A M (Bacup): Moorby S A (Bristol): Morgan N J (Cardiff): Morris L M (Leighton Buzzard): Morris W S (Abergele): Mount K J (Canterbury): Muir M L (Croydon).

Nicolaou V (London): Nisbet Evans A (Reading): Noble E (Keighley): Norris C L (Sanderstead).

O'Donnell C M (Bromsgrove): Omer-Kaye S (Swindon).

Panter J L (Manchester): Parsons D J (Port Erin, Isle of Man): Patel A R (Edgware): Peasgood G L (Brighton): Pike R N (Normanton): Plant T K (Manchester): Playfoot N J (Tonbridge): Priestley A M D (London).

Quigley A S (Horsham).

Ramsay R E G (Guildford): Rennison Y (Chorley): Rhodes D J (Market Harborough): Richards F C M (Bracknell): Robinson H M (Edinburgh): Roderick S J C (Penarth): Rowley A J (Manchester): Runnegar A J (Lichfield): Ryan D J P (St Albans).

†*Sandles I A W (Ilford): Saunders J B (Addlestone): Sayers I R (London): Scott A N (Cardiff): Sills R P (Droitwich): Simons P J (Northampton): Simpson D A (London): Simpson S F (Bo'Ness): Sneddon P L (Wigston): Spence F (Stansted): Spillett A J (London): Staddon S R (Maidstone): Startin R R (London): Stratton-Brown H C (Weybridge): Strickland S L (Huntingdon): Stuart E (Nottingham): Suarez R M (Birmingham).

Taylor J M (York): Tilsley D A (Eastleigh): To J C M (Leeds): Tryphonas E (London): Tyler P G (Bristol).

Urquhart M P (Kingston upon Thames).

Vaughan G C (Orpington): Vercoe C (Kendal): Vickery S M (Tiverton): Vines D J (Luton).

Walker A (Leeds): Ward K B (St Helier, Jersey): Wardle A S (Cheltenham): Westhead A P (Manchester): Wheeler D A (Swindon): Whelan A L (Southampton): White D A (London): White J E (Stoke-on-Trent): Whittaker P R (Cheadle): Wickerson K A (Scunthorpe): Wilkins V G T (Southampton): Williams C T (Watford): Williams J K (Wrexham): Winnan C A (Bristol): Wong C L (London): Wright P A (Huddersfield): Wrigley J G (London).

The Association of Taxation Technicians

Awards

The Association Medal for the best overall performance. Suzanne Pamela Rogerson (KPMG, Milton Keynes)

The Ivison Medal for the highest marks for the paper on Personal Taxation. Suzanne Pamela Rogerson (KPMG, Milton Keynes)

The Jennings Medal for the highest marks for the paper on Business Taxation. Russell Stuart Gardner (KPMG, Newcastle upon Tyne)

The Tolley Prize for the highest overall marks. Suzanne Pamela Rogerson (KPMG, Milton Keynes)

Distinctions

Stephen Paul Brown (Casson Beckman, London); Michael Adrian Campbell (Coopers & Lybrand, Newcastle upon Tyne): Carole Ann Marie Dynes (KPMG, Glasgow): Alison Fields (Macintyre Hudson, Chartered Accountants, Bedford): Russell Stuart Gardner (KPMG, Newcastle upon Tyne); Duncan William George Montgomery, (Touche Ross & Co, Birmingham); Suzanne Pamela Rogerson (KPMG, Milton Keynes): Nick Saunders (International Fiscal Services, London): Kathryn Lesley Tostevin (KPMG, London)

† Prizewinner
* Distinction

Addy R L (Cambridge): Alstrup K J (Hitchin): Aitken C J (Perth): Ando M (Croydon): Armitage M F (Stockport): Armitage R (Huddersfield).

Badcock K (Northampton): Baker N G (Croydon): Baker R (Bristol): Ballard T J (Shoreham-by-Sea): Bancroft S M (London): Barnett D N (Bedford): Beattie W J (Montrose): Bellenger M J (Chichester): Bello-Fuentes J (London): Benjamin J (Bradford): Beri R J (Reading): Berridge S J (Exmouth): Blackburn P (Dewsbury): Blake S M (Reading): Bocock A (Lincoln): Boles J D (Okehampton): Boswell S J (Blackburn): Bowe P V (London): Bowen K A (Tenbury Wells): Bradley H M (Manchester): Bradshaw J L (Banbury): Brady R F (Bath): Bray P R (Bristol): Broomfield L C (Bournemouth): Brown K M (Banbury): *Brown S P (Northolt): Burroughs C S (London).

Cadle J T (Burgess Hill): *Campbell M A (Durham): Capel C Y (Newbury): Carville P J (London): Cavey I D (St Saviour, Jersey): Chambers A S (Lincoln): Cherry P J (Blackpool): Chinery M E (Southampton): Coles H (Rickmansworth): Connolly T J (Cardiff): Cook T (London): Cooksey A (Windsor): Cornfield G (Witham).

Dainton M E R (London): Dardis T R (Redhill): Davis F L (Leicester): Day S (South Croydon): Dayman H D (Teignmouth): Dennison J E (Maidstone): Dickson A L R (Edinburgh): Dubignon A M (Wellingborough): Duddridge M J (Southampton): Duncan S M (Liverpool): Durkin K L (Aylesbury): *Dynes C A M (Glasgow).

Eadon M P (Uckfield): Easton A D (Hull): Elford S W (Salisbury): Ellis R J (Bristol): Espley C D (Wisbech).

Faux J A C (Camberley): Ferreira E M (Windsor): *Fields A (Bedford): Foley E J (Omagh): Foster-Taylor N K (St Albans): Freeman C P D (Sheffield).

†*Gardner R S (Newcastle upon Tyne): Gibbs A (Braintree): Gibbs H Y (Cambridge): Gilbert M A (Ashford): Gladding L (London): Gosney S L (Paignton): Graham C A (London): Graham H L (Barrow-in-Furness): Grantham M (Exeter): Gray M E J (Tunbridge Wells): Green A (Solihull): Greenall M R (Manchester): Gregory K L (Basingstoke): Gruszewski T (Manchester).

Hackney M A (Hull): Hale D V A (London): Halliday P R (Newmarket): Hamilton C (Hull): Hamilton G (Grantown-on-Spey): Harlick J A (Newton Abbot): Harper C J (Kings Lynn): Harrison C S (London): Harrison M R (Winchester): Hartiss C L (Reading): Harvey P P (London): Hewes K S (Brentwood): Hickley K L S (Southampton): Hill F G (London): Hillman C (Bath): Hirano T (London): Hodge H M (London): Holloway S (Wimborne): Holtta T H (London): Houston R K (London): Hudson P J B (Reading): Hughes G M (Wrexham): Hughes P C (Prescot): Hunt P J (Reading): Huxley J A (Deeside).

Ibbotson S E (Sheffield).

James A M (Solihull): Jarman B S (Guildford): Jarvis S P (Southampton): Jenkinson K L (Huddersfield): Johnston N J (South Croydon): Jones G W M (London): Jordan A G (London).

Kennedy S L (Birmingham): King V A (Southampton): Kinnane P G (London): Kitchin D P (Hengoed): Knight K L (Guildford).

Land J M (Chatham): Lane P A (Mayfield): Lee S M (Crediton): Lester E A (London): Lister D J (Bradford): Lister R (Runcorn): Littlefair L D (Bournemouth): Lockhart J (Belfast): Logan I (Newark): Lord N J R (Woodford Green): Love A J (London): Loveridge D H (Horley): Ludlam A (London).

Mackley S A (Sheffield): Maclean M D (Bishop Auckland): Macleod S J D (London): Maddocks M K (Shipston-on-Stour): Magee B A (Ballymena): Magilton A (Stalybridge): Maurice C L (Nottingham): May J (Leatherhead): McGilligan L M (Sidcup): Mistry G (London): *Montgomery D W G (Shrewsbury): Morant W A (Bedford): Morris P A J (Bristol): Moss R B W (Hastings).

Naldrett J A (Woking): Nejad M M (Paignton): Newham F (Bridgwater): Newton A P (Felixstowe): Newton S J (Reading): Nicholson R J (Workington).

O'Sullivan I (Lochwinnoch): Oldham F J (Ruislip): Owen E P (Southampton).

Page A R (Ashtead): Page J A (Motherwell): Page T J (Romford): Parker S J (Bury St Edmunds): Parsons C T (Sunderland): Patterson I A (Wakefield): Payne A M (London): Payne J (London): Payton S J (Derby): Pell N R (Alford): Penhallurick C K (Falmouth): Perkins S M (London): Phillips J (Bedford): Popham M I (Ashton-under-Lyne): Pouncey R G A (Wellingborough): Powell S L (Nottingham): Prebhakaran A D (Wokingham): Prichard D M (Bromsgrove): Prinn S G R (Reading): Probert N P (London): Pryer J M (London).

Rafiq H S (Brentford): Rainbow A G (Bradford): Renshaw M N (Lincoln): Reveres N K (Stanmore): Rice A L (Southsea): Rints S A (Uxbridge): Roberts S E (Porthmadog): †*Rogerson S P (Milton Keynes).

Sage C L (Manchester): Salisbury J (Birkenhead): *Saunders N (London): Sawdon C M (London): Scaife L (Reading): Shallcross J K (Ashford): Shanmugathas D (Wembley): Sherwood E H (London): Shrubsole C (St Albans): Simpson J (Glasgow): Simpson S T (Leeds): Simpson V J W (London): Singleton M (Ferndown): Smart D M Mc (Perth): Smith G C (Edinburgh): Smith P J S (Guildford): Smith V L (Wirral): Spence C (Barnard Castle): Spencer J M (Manchester): Strickland S A (Grantham).

Telford G (Chorley): Thimbleby A (Doncaster): Thomas P A (Lytham St Annes): Thomas S G (Exeter): Thomson D (Hawick): Thorne M A (Southampton): Tims C (London): Todd R M (Livingston): Tomlin A (Billingham): Tonks E (Bristol): *Tostevin K L (London): Tovey S-J (Watford): Townson P J (Petersfield): Treacy C (London).

Vale A L (Wigan).

Wallace J P (Redhill): Wallace K S (Redhill): Wedge S D (London): Wells A D (Tonbridge): White N V (Bury): Whittaker I P (Manchester): Wilkinson S A (London): Wilson J M (Newcastle upon Tyne): Wilson L M A (London): Wolstenholme P A (Bolton): Woolley M E (Chelmsford): Wright M G (Colchester): Wright T A (Sheffield).

Yamaguchi J (London): Yeo S F D (Sutton).

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59 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JH

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Leading jockey out for at least a month after Leicester mêlée

Maguire may miss Cheltenham

By Richard Evans, Racing Journalist of the Year

ADRIAN MAGUIRE faces between a month and six weeks on the sidelines after an horrific four horse pile-up in the opening race at Leicester yesterday which left the top jockey with a bad injury to his left knee.

The latest setback could mean the talented Irishman will miss the Cheltenham Festival for the second successive year — but as he returned home last night Maguire was thankful his injuries were not far worse.

After being unseated from Boss's Bank at the third flight of the Croxton Park Novices' Hurdle. Maguire was kicked on the head as three other horses fell in the mêlée. The force of the blow split his riding helmet. Maguire's misery was compounded by the fact that the promising Boss's Bank had to be put down.

"I was lucky in a way and it is just as well I was wearing one of the new, protective helmets otherwise it could have been far, far worse," Maguire said as he was driven home from Leicester Royal Infirmary by weighing room colleague Mick Fitzgerald.

"I feel pretty sore. I have injured the ligaments inside the left knee and pulled a piece of bone off as well. The doctors say I will be off for a month to six weeks," he said.

Describing the incident which resulted in him being stretchered off the course, Maguire added: "I thought we had jumped the third flight quite well but he landed a bit steep and knuckled under me. I think I might have got my ankle caught in the irons."

A broken wrist last April brought the 1994-95 season to an abrupt end for Maguire, while a cracked fibia suffered at Ascot in November effectively ended his chances of winning this season's jockeys' championship. The death of his mother resulted in him missing the Cheltenham Festival last year but he is determined to be there this March. "I will be working hard to get back before then," he vowed last night.

See More Business, the top novice hurdler in Britain and a leading fancy for the Sun Alliance Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival, will not race again this season because of a leg injury.

The Paul Nicholls-trained six-year-old had worked well last Friday but heat was discovered in his off-fore over the weekend. He would have needed between a month and six weeks off, according to veterinary advice, thereby precluding a crack at Cheltenham.

Paul Barber and John Keighley, owners of See More Business, decided it would be in the horse's best interests if he was roughed off for the rest of this season before returning to action next autumn for a novice chasing campaign.

Nicholls said yesterday: "It is a major blow missing Cheltenham but at least he will be back next season. Paul [Barber] said to me last night this is a character-building business and I know what he means. The plan had been to go for the Premiere Auction Novices' Hurdle at Wincanton and then the Sun Alliance at Cheltenham."

See More Business, winner of both completed starts in point-to-points last season, was unbeaten in three starts over hurdles this term and went into many notebooks as Festival material when beating Father Sky by 15 lengths in his most recent success at Sandown last month.

Potential Cheltenham runners will be thin on the ground at Folkestone or Sedgefield this afternoon but one horse worth following closely is Ubu Val, top weight in the Westenhanger Novices' Chase at Folkestone. After winning a couple of point-to-points last year, the ten-year-old was nicely backed when making a successful debut under Rules at Windsor in November. The form of that fast-run race has worked out well.

Stepped up noticeably in class at Wetherby 13 days ago, he was far from disgraced against some of the best staying novice chasers. Despite being a shade hesitant at his fences early on, William Bethell's runner stayed on well to finish third to Mr Mulligan and Call It A Day. Dropped back in class today, he should have too much speed for the likes of The Booley House and Ocean Leader.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: UBU VAL
(1.50 Folkestone)
Next best: Early Drinker
(3.20 Folkestone)

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Maguire was taken to Leicester Royal Infirmary with a knee injury after falling from Boss's Bank yesterday

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Market Rasen

Going: good to firm, good in places

1.40 (3m hdle) 1. **Alcian Blue** (P Niven, 11-2); 2. Hatcham Boy (8-11 fav); 3. Bullens Bay (3-1). 8 ran. NR: Cherry Stone, Kindakoola. 2½l, 10l. M Hammond. Tote £6.60; £1.50, £1.10, £1.10. DF: £3.70. Trio: £1.40. CSF: £9.62.

2.10 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1. **Tara Rambler** (P Carberry, 5-4 fav); 2. Slingsby (5-1); 3. Speaker Weatherill (5-1). 11 ran. NR: Wilman. ½l, 25l. Miss S Hall. Tote £2.30; £1.30, £2.30, £1.10. DF: £5.80. Trio: £5.20. CSF: £8.62.

2.40 (2m 4f ch) 1. **Chief Raider** (A S Smith, 7-4 fav); 2. Artic Wings (2-1); 3. Bendor Mark (7-1). 8 ran. NR: Dissington Dene. Solba. 5l, hd. J Wade. Tote: £2.40; £1.10, £2.20, £3.70. DF: £3.00. Trio: £9.20. CSF: £5.64.

3.10 (3m hdle) 1. **Yes Man** (J F Titley, 11-8 fav); 2. Henry Cone (9-4); 3. Britannia Mills (20-1). 5 ran. 1¼l, 2l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £2.00; £1.10, £2.20. DF: £4.70. CSF: £4.87.

3.40 (2m 4f ch) 1. **Maneree** (J F Titley, 7-4 fav, Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2. Boston Rover (2-1); 3. Zaura (2-1). 5 ran. NR: Astings, Mo Ichi Do. 6l, 6l. N Callaghan. Tote: £2.70; £2.10, £1.90. DF: £4.80. CSF: £5.80.

4.10 (2m 1f 110yd flat race) 1. **Alzulu** (M Dwyer, 11-2); 2. Simple Simon (6-4 fav); 3. Falcon's Image (9-1). 15 ran. NR: Dark Orchard. 1l, 7l. J Fitzgerald. Tote £7.80; £2.20, £2.40, £1.80. DF: £20.80. Trio: £36.30. CSF: £16.33.

Placepot: £6.90. Quadpot: £3.40.

Leicester

Going: good (chase course); soft (hurdles)

1.00 (2m hdle) 1. **Inculcate** (J Osborne, 5-1); 2. Buster Bob (8-1); 3. Fantastic Fleet (12-1). Boss's Bank 11-10 fav (f). 15 ran. 11l, 5l. C Weedon. Tote £8.10; £1.90, £2.50, £4.50. DF: £20.20. Trio: £54.00. CSF: £44.43.

1.30 (2m hdle) 1. **Frontager** (J Osborne, 13-2); 2. Mouse Bird (11-8 fav); 3. Keen To The Last (12-1). 13 ran. NR: Barbaroja. 6l, 7l. C Egerton. Tote: £9.20; £4.10, £1.10, £1.70. DF: £6.70. Trio: £26.40. CSF: £15.36.

2.00 (3m ch) 1. **Class Of Ninetytwo** (A P McCoy, 11-4 fav, Richard Evans's nap); 2. Kilnny Cross (6-1); 3. Pennine Pride (11-2); 4. Inconclusive (33-1). 16 ran. 2½l, 15l. T Forster. Tote: £3.20; £2.00, £1.20, £1.10, £13.20. DF: £11.70. Trio: £12.00. CSF: £20.63. Tricast: £82.30.

2.30 (2m hdle) 1. **Touch Silver** (S Curran, 4-1); 2. Strike-A-Pose (3-1 fav); 3. Kin's Rose (7-1). 12 ran. H Manners. Tote: £6.60; £2.80, £1.40, £5.70. DF: £10.30. CSF: £18.27. Tricast: £79.07.

3.00 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1. **Beauchamp Grace** (Mr K Whelan, 2-1 fav); 2. Pearl's Choice (10-1); 3. Too Sharp (11-2). 8 ran. NR: Rosie-B. Dist, 6l. Mrs S Bramall. Tote: £2.80; £1.10, £1.70, £2.00. DF: £9.70. Trio: £28.50. CSF: £21.36.

3.30 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1. **Our Slimbridge** (B Powell, 12-1); 2. Flat Top (6-1); 3. Lead Vocalist (7-1); 4. Derab (10-1). Twice A Night 11-2 fav. 20 ran. NR: Country Store. 5l, 1½l. A Carroll. Tote: £16.60; £4.20, £2.40, £2.70, £3.20. DF: £38.80. Trio: £355.10. CSF: £91.00. Tricast: £530.90.

4.00 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1. **Arithmetic** (W Marston, 9-2); 2. What's Your Story (4-1 fav); 3. Shallow River (12-1). 22 ran. NR: Baileys Bridge. ½l, 6l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £5.10; £2.00, £2.50, £11.00. DF: £9.30. Trio: £80.80. CSF: £24.44.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £111,085.46 carried forward to Folkestone today).

Placepot: £185.30. Quadpot: £20.90.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

1.50 (1m 4f) 1. **El Volador** (D Biggs, 4-9 fav); 2. Northern Trial (20-1); 3. Tartan Gem (4-1). 7 ran. 2l, ½l. R O'Sullivan. Tote £1.20; £1.00, £12.20. DF: £15.30. CSF: £10.22.

2.20 (1m) 1. **Rowlandsons Charm** (N Adams, 5-4 fav); 2. Multi Franchise (10-1); 3. Bells Of Holland (7-4). 9 ran. 3½l, 1l. G L Moore. Tote £1.60; £1.00, £2.90, £1.10. DF: £7.00. Trio: £2.70. CSF: £14.11. No bid.

2.50 (2m) 1. **Ikhtiraa** (N Carlisle, 5-1); 2. Colendge (11-4); 3. Benfleet (15-8 fav). 8 ran. 1½l, 10l. R O'Sullivan. Tote £7.40; £1.60, £1.10, £1.10. DF: £4.60. CSF: £18.72. Tricast: £31.73.

3.20 (6f) 1. **Miss Carottene** (M Baird, 10-1); 2. Sunset Harbour (4-1); 3. Mystery Matthias (12-1). Balpare 11-4 fav. 12 ran. NR: . 2l. M Ryan. Tote: £9.30; £1.60, £1.70, £3.20. DF: £81.30. Trio: £135.50 (part won, pool of £158.02 carried forward to 2.20 at Folkestone today). CSF: £53.17. Tricast: £465.82.

3.50 (1m 2f) 1. **King Of Tunes** (J Quinn, 12-1); 2. Almuhtaram (6-1); 3. Access Adventurer (5-1 fav). 14 ran. ¾l, hd. J Sheehan. Tote £22.70; £5.70, £3.40, £2.60. DF: £38.70. Trio: £251.50. CSF: £84.30. Tricast: £258.35.

4.20 (7f) 1. **King Parrot** (Aimee Cook, 4-1); 2. Dahiyah (6-1); 3. Nuthatch (14-1). Jaazim 11-4 fav. 11 ran. ¾l, 3l. Lord Huntingdon. Tote £6.90; £1.70, £2.30, £3.50. DF: £21.50. Trio: £139.70. CSF: £28.60. Tricast: £287.45.

Placepot: £136.80.

Quadpot: £88.40.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

FOLKESTONE: Trainers: A Jones, 4 winners from 10 runners, 40.0%; Miss H Knight, 5 from 14, 35.7%; J Upson, 3 from 9, 33.3%; M Pipe, 9 from 29, 31.0%; J Gifford, 14 from 66, 21.2%; Mrs D Haine, 4 from 22, 18.2%. Jockeys: S McNeill, 5 winners from 19 rides, 26.3%; D Bridgwater, 5 from 20, 25.0%; E Murphy, 4 from 17, 23.5%; M Richards, 6 from 26, 23.1%; P Hide, 5 from 28, 17.9%; C Llewellyn, 3 from 18, 16.7%.

SEDGEFIELD: Trainers: Mrs M Reveley, 70 winners from 229 runners, 30.6%; T Tate, 5 from 17, 29.4%; J Fitzgerald, 17 from 59, 28.8%; L Lungo, 9 from 40, 22.5%; J J O'Neill, 12 from 54, 22.2%; M H Easterby, 20 from 91, 22.0%. Jockeys: P Niven, 62 winners from 180 rides, 34.4%; M Dwyer, 27 from 125, 21.6%; A Roche, 3 from 14, 21.4%; L Wyer, 23 from 109, 21.1%; J Callaghan, 19 from 114, 16.7%; D Byrne, 6 from 45, 13.3%.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Trainers: R Charlton, 4 winners from 12 runners, 33.3%; M Johnston, 30 from 114, 26.3%; Lord Huntingdon, 16 from 64, 25.0%; S Williams, 9 from 39, 23.1%; R Bastiman, 6 from 27, 22.2%; F Lee, 3 from 14, 21.4%. Jockeys: J Weaver, 46 winners from 214 rides, 21.5%; J Tate, 9 from 49, 18.4%; T Ives, 21 from 119, 17.6%; C Nutter, 3 from 17, 17.6%; P Fessey, 4 from 29, 13.8%; Alex Greaves, 4 from 33, 12.1%.

Blinkered first time

FOLKESTONE: 2.20 Coal Not Dole, Full Quiver. 2.50 Gavaskar. 3.50 Chowpor. **SEDGEFIELD:** 4.10 Anastasia Windsor. **WOLVERHAMPTON:** 2.30 Shahik. 4.00 Acquittal, Fraise Du Roi.

SEDGEFIELD

THUNDERER

1.10 Thursday Night. 1.40 Wild Rose Of York. 2.10 Waking. 2.40 Go Silly. 3.10 Flash Of Realm. 3.40 Monaru. 4.10 Gallants Delight.

Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.40 HIGH PENHOWE.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

1.10 NORTHERN ELECTRIC CHARITY CHALLENGE SERIES (Novices hurdle: Div I: £2,495: 2m 1f 110yd) (14)

1 1320 CADEAUX PREMIERE 11 (F) Denys Smith 5-11-11 B Harding (3) 69
2 330 BALHERNOCH 13 M H Easterby 7-11-4 L Wyer 35
3 COUREUR 85F M Hammond 7-11-4 Mr C Bonner (3) –
4 0020 FRYUP SATELLITE 12 Mrs J Brown 5-11-4 E Callaghan (5) 82
5 42 HIGHLAND WAY 14 M Todhunter 8-11-4 R Garritty 95
6 6 MISTER CASUAL 12 G Reed 7-11-4 T Reed 90
7 0P-0 PAINT YOUR WAGON 79 N Chamberlain 6-11-4 B Storey –
8 55-0 THURSDAY NIGHT 39 J Fitzgerald 5-11-4 M Dwyer 75
9 -422 WELSH MILL 50 Mrs M Reveley 7-11-4 P Niven 99
10 P COLOUR OF LIFE 52 M Limmond 6-10-13 Guy Lewis (3) –
11 3 LEVEL EDGE 111F H Alexander 5-10-13 D Thomas (7) –
12 050 GENERAL JIMBO B F Murphy 4-10-5 P Carberry –
13 0 HEY UP DOLLY 8 J J O'Neill 4-10-1 A Roche (3) –
14 0 OUR RAINBOW 56 Mrs S Austin 4-10-1 B Grattan (7) 76

5-4 Welsh Mill, 5-1 Balhernoch, 4-1 Highland Way, 10-1 Coureur, 12-1 others.

1.40 STONEGRAVE AGGREGATES SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,122: 2m 1f 110yd) (18)

1 1345 WILD ROSE OF YORK 19 (BF,F,G) P Monteith 5-11-11 G Cahill (7) 92
2 -0-0 ASHDREN 11 (G) A Harrison 9-11-9 D Bentley 87
3 20-0 LIABILITY ORDER 37 (D,F,S) J Birkett 7-11-8 M Moloney –
4 0-06 REVE DE VALSE 62 (G,S) Denys Smith 9-11-7 B Harding (3) –
5 0250 SUPERHOO 63 (CD,S) F Gamgs 5-11-6 A Dobbin 92
6 0P- JOMOVE 442 (CD,S) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-5 P Niven –
7 5-0 MARKED CARD 14 Mrs M Kendall 8-10-12 Mrs M Kendall 90
8 2316 CANDID LAD 65 (CD,F) F Storey 9-10-12 B Storey 98
9 -000 PIER THIRTY NINE 20 (F,G,S) J Parkes 10-10-6 R McCarthy (7) –
10 0505 MY HANDY MAN 19 R Allan 5-10-5 S Melrose (7) 52
11 0605 ORCHIDARMA 7 J Quinn 4-10-7 M Dwyer 99
12 0-0P MY LINDIANNE 15 (S) J Docker 9-10-0 R Davis 94
13 P-03 THOMAS RAND 20 M Dods 7-10-0 N Smith 90
14 003 VINTAGE TAITTINGER 14 T Dyer 4-10-0 L Wyer 96
15 005- TROPNEVAD 342 F Spottiswood 8-10-0 F Perratt –
16 5510 AUNTIE LORNA 4 T Watson 7-10-0 DOUBTFUL –
17 0000 THARSIS 20 (F,G) W Smith 11-10-0 D Ryan (7) –
18 0-PP ULTRAKAY 35 J Haynes 6-10-0 D Parker (3) –

5-1 Marked Card, 5-1 Wild Rose Of York, 7-1 Vintage Taittinger, 8-1 others.

2.10 NORTHERN ELECTRIC CHARITY CHALLENGE SERIES (Novices hurdle: Div II: £2,495: 2m 1f 110yd) (14)

1 PP COME ON RISK ME 39 D McCain 5-11-4 D McCain –
2 50 CONDIHAME 39 M Wane 6-11-4 J Callaghan –
3 330- GENERAL S ORDERS 291 (S) J Norton 5-11-4 W Fry –
4 0 HOWYOUDOING 14 M Barnes 6-11-4 P Waggott –
5 0-06 OVER STATED 37 P Cheesbrough 6-11-4 R Supple –
6 25 SUNDERLAND ECHO 57 (BF) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-4 P Niven 99
7 0 WAKING 39 J Fitzgerald 5-11-4 M Dwyer 73
8 0 MISS MILLIPEDE 46 T Easterby 5-10-13 R Rourke (7) 75
9 0P AMBIDEXTROUS 11 (V) E Alston 4-10-6 L Wyer 75
10 HERE COMES HERBIE 92F W Storey 4-10-6 M Moloney –
11 500 MITHRAIC 11 W Cunningham 4-10-6 N Smith 98
12 0 PERFECT BERTIE 67 Mrs M Kendall 4-10-6 E Husband (3) –
13 0 ROY BOY 12 Mrs M Reveley 4-10-6 G Cahill (7) –
14 0 TIRA HEIGHTS 8 J J O'Neill 4-10-6 A Roche (3) 80

9-4 Sunderland Echo, 3-1 Howyoudoing, 8-1 Tira Heights, 10-1 others.

2.40 WINTER SPORTS MAIDEN CHASE (£3,647: 3m 3f) (13)

1 -U04 BUSY BOY 20 D Lamb 9-11-5 A Manners (7) 90
2 33-4 CALL THE SHOTS 58 J Wade 7-11-5 K Jones 99
3 0P-P CANAILLOU II 74 Mrs S Bramall 6-11-5 J Burke –
4 00 CHARLIE TRUMPER 1008 W McKeown 9-11-5 G Cahill (7) –
5 U236 DALUSMAN 12 J Swaill 8-11-5 M Moloney –
6 -0P5 EXCISE MAN 11 (G) F Walton 9-11-5 Mr A Robson –
7 F6-4 FINCH'S GEM 46 G Richards 8-11-5 A Dobbin 91
8 0P GIVE IT LALDY 4 L Lungo 8-11-5 T Reed –
9 P-64 GO SILLY 8 (S) P Elliott 10-11-5 B Harding (3) 97
10 OYKEL RIVER 616P Miss S Williamson 8-11-5 D Ryan (7) –
11 -256 VILLAINS BRIEF 15 (B) I Semple 7-11-5 A Lamach (3) –
12 F600 SAGARO BELLE 8 A Crow 10-11-0 P Waggott 65
13 0P VITAL DECISION 13 N Lamaard 7-11-0 Guy Lewis (3) –

6-4 Call The Shots, 5-1 Go Silly, 6-1 Dalusman, 12-1 Villains Brief, 16-1 others.

3.10 CURLING HANDICAP CHASE (£2,824: 2m 1f) (12)

1 3124 FLASH OF REALM 14 (F,G,S) P Monteith 10-12-0 A Dobbin 92
2 24-0 KANNDABIL 6 (B,D,G,S) N Tinkler 9-11-7 M Dwyer 87
3 -605 TRESIDDER 13 (CD,F,G,S) M W Easterby 14-11-4 R Garritty 90
4 513- BISHOPDALE 238 (CD,F,G,S) S Chadwick 15-10-9 D Bentley 86
5 33PP GORTNAMONA 25 (G) J Beaum 10-10-6 B Storey 82
6 2323 BRIAR'S DELIGHT 14 (B,F,G) R Allan 8-10-8 S Melrose (7) 89
7 0354 NORTH PRIDE 40 (F,S) M Barnes 11-10-1 B Harding (3) 94
8 2335 CIRCULATION 39 (D,G,S) D McCain 10-10-1 D Walsh (5) 99
9 -664 MACCONACHIE 8 M Dods 9-10-0 N Smith 93
10 -340 BAD TRADE 49 (G,S) D Alder 14-10-0 A Manners (7) 65
11 5425 FULL SHILLING 2 K Burke 7-10-0 A Lamach (3) 85
12 2236 DOXFORD HUT 5 (F) W McKeown 12-10-0 G Cahill (7) 83

5-2 Briar's Delight, 3-1 Flash Of Realm, 7-1 Bishopdale, 8-1 Macconachie, Tresidder, 10-1 Doxford Hut, 12-1 others.

3.40 ACROPOLA HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,756: 3m 3f 110yd) (10)

1 U050 ADRIEN 8 (B,F,S) Mrs S Bramall 9-12-0 A K Smith (7) 95
2 FP-P MR OPTIMISTIC 20 (G,S) P Murtagh 9-11-7 A Dobbin –
3 6320 FORWARD GLEN 11 (F) P Cheesbrough 9-11-4 R Supple 93
4 6000 MONARU 11 (C,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 10-11-4 P Niven 99
5 -603 D'ARBLAY STREET 12 (B,CD,S) W Kemp 7-11-1 B Storey 92
6 -231 NEW CHARGES 35 (G) F Beaumont 9-11-0 B Grattan (7) 90
7 -1P1 GOLDEN NUGGET 39 (F,S) E Alston 9-10-11 L Wyer 88
8 4-16 SIERRA MADRONA 55 (G) Mrs A Swinbank 6-10-11 J Railton 95
9 -601 HIGH PENHOWE 20 (C,F) J Quinn 8-10-4 M Dwyer 99
10 3223 GOLDMIRE 63 (BF,G) W Tinning 6-10-3 D Parker (3) 93

7-2 Golden Nugget, 9-2 D'Arblay Street, 5-1 Adrien, New Charges, 7-1 others.

4.10 SKI-ING NATIONAL HUNT MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE (£2,635: 2m 1f 110yd) (18)

1 P000 ANASTASIA WINDSOR 18 (V) D Moffatt 5-11-4 D J Moffatt 84
2 65U3 BIBBY BEAR 193 (V) G Kelly 7-11-4 Mr C Mulhall 65
3 CAMDEN LASS Mrs A Naughton 10-11-4 M Foster –
4 00/ CEDAR LEAF 648 R McDonald 6-11-4 K Jones –
5 P-00 CLOVER GIRL 7 S Ellison 5-11-4 B Harding (3) –
6 3F-P DEAR EMILY 39 J Swiers 5-11-4 Mr S Swiers –
7 2-22 DECENT PENNY 39 Mrs M Reveley 7-11-4 P Niven –
8 /6-4 DERRY'S DELIGHT 20 T Etherington 9-11-4 L Wyer –
9 -240 GALLANTS DELIGHT 13 M Barnes 6-11-4 P Waggott 99
10 0-0 GAME POINT 20 D Lamb 7-11-4 A Manners (7) –
11 5 LAMBRINI 70 D McCain 6-11-4 D McCain 86
12 6-03 MEADOWBURN 20 W Reed 6-11-4 T Reed 87
13 MIDDLEHAM PEARL P Beaumont 6-11-4 R Supple –
14 -350 MISS LAMPLIGHT F Murtagh 6-11-4 A Dobbin 91
15 NITE SPRITE R Barr 6-11-4 N Smith –
16 NORTON GALE J Norton 5-11-4 W Fry –
17 6-00 STORMHILL AMAZON T Tate 5-11-4 F. Garritty –
18 FUP- YOUNG GALA J Birkett 7-11-4 M Moloney –

5-2 Decent Penny, 9-2 Gallants Delight, 5-1 Meadowburn, 6-1 Miss Lamplight, 12-1 Bibby Bear, 14-1 Middleham Pearl, 16-1 others.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

2.00 Farmost. 2.30 Rambo Waltzer. 3.00 Maple Bay. 3.30 CHINA CASTLE (nap). 4.00 Stevie's Wonder. 4.30 The Institute Boy.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.30 Berge. 4.00 Stevie's Wonder.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.00 HADDOCK MAIDEN STAKES (£3,867: 6f) (13 runners)

1 400- CALL TOPHORSE 212 C Murray 4-9-10 M Tebbutt 9
2 300- GIFTBOX 129 M Prescott 4-9-10 M Rimmer 3
3 RIZAL D Murray Smith 4-9-10 J Weaver 13
4 055- PATS DELIGHT 109J S Coathup 4-9-5 T Williams 8
5 50- COASTGUARDS HERO 179 M Usher 3-8-8 M Wigham 1
6 DUMMER GOLF TIME Lord Huntingdon 3-8-8 T Ives 2
7 0- EBEN NAAS 37 S Williams 3-8-8 J Tate 7
8 002- FARMOST 40 M Prescott 3-8-8 C Nutter 11
9 HEATHYARDS ROSE R Hollinshead 3-8-3 F Lynch (7) 6
10 0 HIGHLAND FAWN 14 B McMahon 3-8-3 L Newton (5) 10
11 OAKLEY FOLLY R Hollinshead 3-8-3 N Carlisle 4
12 0-0 RADMORE BRANDY 16 N Littmoden 3-8-3 J Bramhill (7) 5
13 0-0 ROXANE 14 A Bailey 3-8-3 D Wright (3) 12

7-4 Farmost, 3-1 Dummer Golf Time, 10-1 Giftbox, 12-1 Highland Fawn, Rizal, Eben Naas, 14-1 others.

2.30 MACKEREL CLAIMING STAKES (£2,871: 7f) (11)

1 15-0 EVERSET 21 (CD,F,G,S) A Bailey 8-9-2 D Wright (3) 5
2 -156 RAMBO WALTZER 6 (D,G) D Nicholls 4-9-2 Alex Greaves 3
3 /5-0 SHAHIK 7 (V,G) J O'Shea 6-9-2 J Quinn 8
4 31-1 BERGE 9 (B,D,F,G) W O'Gorman 5-9-0 Emma O'Gorman 2
5 46-6 JIGSAW BOY 14 (C,BF,F,G,S) P Murphy 7-8-12 S Drowne (3) 4
6 0-13 SENSE OF PRIORITY 12 (BF,C,D,F,G) D Nicholls 7-8-8 M Tebbutt 7
7 00-0 LIFE IS PRECIOUS 21 (S) R Hollinshead 4-8-7 M Wigham 11
8 0-46 BEST KEPT SECRET 6 (V,F,G,S) P Evans 5-8-4 D Sweeney (7) 1
9 00-5 PROMISE FULFILLED 14 (F,S) A Bailey 5-8-3 Iona Wands (7) 9
10 000/ PERSIAN GUSHER 67J (D,G) N Smith 6-8-2 N Carlisle 6
11 -005 BEX HILL 9 (V,CD,G) D Haydn Jones 4-7-11 A Mackay 10

5-2 Berge, 4-1 Rambo Waltzer, 6-1 Everset, Sense Of Priority, 8-1 others.

3.00 SALMON HANDICAP (£3,814: 1m 1f 79yd) (13)

1 1/02 MAKE A NOTE 7 (F,G,S) P Evans 5-10-0 J Fortune 9
2 45-4 KOMREYEV DANCER 14 (C,G) A Bailey 4-9-12 D Wright (3) 7
3 215- HILLZAH 187 (C,F,G,S) R Bastiman 8-9-11 H Bastiman (5) 11
4 1112 MAPLE BAY 7 (CD,G) A Bailey 7-9-8 P Roberts (7) 2
5 616/ P G TIPS 592 (C,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 5-9-6 S D Williams 3
6 600- RAINBOW WALK 42J (V,C,G) J O'Shea 6-9-5 J Quinn 6
7 3-26 HIGH PREMIUM 14 (F,G) R Fahey 8-9-4 A Culhane 13
8 0-00 MANABAR 6 (G) M Pulgate 4-9-3 M Rimmer 12
9 06-3 KINTWYN 14 (CD,G) C Elsey 6-9-3 M Tebbutt 1
10 450/ ORCHESTRAL DESIGNS 13J C Hart 5-8-12 S Drowne (3) 8
11 03-0 FIELD OF VISION 18 (BF,F) M Johnston 6-8-11 J Weaver 4
12 030- DESERT POWER 46 (F,G) D Burchell 7-8-5 D McKeown 5
13 6-52 SNAKE PLISSKEN 9 D Haydn Jones 5-7-10 A Mackay 10

4-1 Maple Bay, 5-1 Komreyev Dancer, 6-1 Kintwyn, 7-1 Make A Note, Hillzah, 8-1 High Premium, 10-1 others.

3.30 TROUT HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £5,582: 1m 100yd) (9)

1 001- LE SPORT 46 (C,G) A Bailey 9-7 D Wright (3) 5
2 12-5 VICTIM OF LOVE 20 (C,G) R Charlton 9-2 J Weaver 1
3 0-11 CHINA CASTLE 15 (G) P Haslam 8-12 J Fortune 4
4 000- GALAPINO 79 C Brittain 8-9 M Larsen 7
5 040- AUTUMN 135 C Murray 8-6 M Tebbutt 8
6 01-2 THEATRE MAGIC 19 (B,BF,G) S Bowring 8-4 C Teague (5) 3
7 24-6 LADY DIGNITY 19 P Makin 8-4 J Quinn 2
8 21-2 DOMOOR 15 (CD,G) M Johnston 8-0 T Williams 9
9 30-3 SCENICRIS 21 R Hollinshead 7-11 N Carlisle 6

3-1 China Castle, 7-2 Domoor, 4-1 Le Sport, 6-1 Theatre Magic, 7-1 others.

4.00 BREAM SELLING STAKES (£3,160: 1m 6f 166yd) (12)

1 200- CASTLE SECRET 65 (F,G) D Burchell 10-9-2 D McKeown 11
2 6-35 DUGGAN 6 (F,G) P Evans 9-9-3 D Sweeney (7) 9
3 04-3 EL NIDO 12 (BF,F,G,S) M Camacho 9-9-3 L Charnock 1
4 240- STEVIE'S WONDER 54 (V,G,S) M Ryan 6-9-3 G Bardwell 2
5 20-6 WAHEM 13 (F) C Brittain 6-9-3 M Larsen 8
6 005- HILL FARM KATIE 43 (G) W Brisbourne 5-8-12 R Cochrane 5
7 MUSICAL VOCATION 35J B Preece 5-8-12 V Slattery 7
8 30-0 ACQUITTAL 12 (B,F) J Mackie 4-8-11 N Varley (3) 12
9 320- BUSHEHR 20J (G) S Coathup 4-8-11 J Weaver 3
10 00-0 RANGER SLOANE 7 G Fierro 4-8-11 M Wigham 6
11 0-04 FOOLS OF PRIDE 12 (CD,G) R Hollinshead 4-8-6 F Lynch (7) 4
12 0-0 FRAISE DU ROI 11 (V) Lord Huntingdon 4-8-6 Aimee Cook (7) 10

7-2 El Nido, 4-1 Stevie's Wonder, 6-1 Bushehr, 8-1 Fools Of Pride, 10-1 others.

4.30 LADBROKE SERIES HANDICAP (Qualifier: £3,744: 5f) (11)

1 000- CRYSTAL LOOP 43 (C,D,F,G) A Bailey 4-10-0 D Wright (3) 4
2 46-6 LORD SKY 14 (B,CD,F,G,S) A Bailey 5-9-12 R Cochrane 3
3 230- KALAR 41 (B,D,F,G) D Chapman 7-9-10 A Culhane 9
4 423- KING RAMBO 102 (CD,F,G) R Hollinshead 5-9-8 T Ives 7
5 0-24 CHADWELL HALL 14 (B,CD,G,S) S Bowring 5-9-7 C Teague (5) 8
6 0-33 FEATHERSTONE LANE 14 (V,D,F) Miss L Siddall 5-9-3 D McKeown 5
7 2-02 DISTANT DYNASTY 13 (C,D,G,S) B Pearce 6-9-0 T Ashley (7) 10
8 352- SOUTHERN DOMINION 37 (B,CD,G) M Johnston 4-9-0 J Weaver 6
9 3-12 CHEEKY CHAPPY 14 (B,CD,BF,F,G) D Chapman 5-9-0 P Fessey (5) 2
10 40-2 THE INSTITUTE BOY 21 (D,G) Miss J Craze 6-8-7 N Kennedy 11
11 01-0 BAJAN FRONTIER 14 (CD,G) F Lee 4-8-4 N Carlisle 1

7-2 Cheeky Chappy, 9-2 Featherstone Lane, 5-1 Southern Dominion, 6-1 Chadwell Hall, 8-1 King Rambo, The Institute Boy, 10-1 Distant Dynasty, 12-1 others.

FOLKESTONE

THUNDERER

1.20 Miroswaki
1.50 Ubu Val
2.20 Full Quiver
2.50 Il Bambino
3.20 Early Drinker
3.50 Lady Lacey
4.20 Rivage Bleu

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 1.50 OCEAN LEADER (nap).

GOING: GOOD (CHASE COURSE); GOOD TO SOFT (HURDLES) SIS

1.20 NORTHIAM NOVICES HURDLE (£2,616: 2m 1f 110yd) (20 runners)

101 422-1 OBAN 19 (S) (Lord Hartington) Miss H Knight 6-11-11 J F Titley 91
102 0-05 BUCKLAND LAD 34 (Mrs R Hepburn) D Gessell 5-11-4 J R Kavanagh –
103 24 HARDING 69 (S Tindall) S Mellor 5-11-4 N Mann 96
104 IT'S A GEM (F Tyrwhitt-Drake) J Gifford 7-11-4 P Hide –
105 4 LIBERTARIAN 48 (J Dougall) O Sherwood 6-11-4 M Richards –
106 50P MASKED MARTIN 9 (B) (E Wey) P Rodford 5-11-4 S Burrough –
107 5-6446 MEAD COURT 13 (M Worcester) N Chance 6-11-4 R Johnson (3) 69
108 F0-2 MIROSWAKI 11F (Mrs A Naughton) R Akehurst 6-11-4 S Ryan (7) 99
109 030-650 NAHRAWALI 18F (C Sparrowhawk) A Moore 5-11-4 B Powell –
110 NORTHERN KINGDOM 219F (P Deal) K Bailey 7-11-4 A Thornton –
111 THE LITTLE FERRET 11F (K Higson) A Moore 6-11-4 A P McCoy –
112 LADY NESS (Knockdown Racing) J Tuck 5-10-13 S McNeill –
113 002/0 SURGICAL SPIRIT 43 (J Homewood) J Homewood 6-10-13 F Cooper –
114 41 TONYS GIFT 15 (S) (Blue Chip Group) M Pipe 4-10-8 J Osborne 84
115 P ALL OVER RED ROVER 55 (G Roberts) A Carroll 4-10-6 W Marston –
116 00 DANCE KING 39 (T Connors) R Harris 4-10-6 V Smith –
117 00 MONUMENT 6 (Ms M Horan) J King 4-10-6 G Upton –
118 0 MORE BILLS 11F (A Moore) A Moore 4-10-6 M Batchelor (7) –
119 43 THE QUADS 21 (J Duddy) J Ffitch-Heyes 4-10-6 – 84
120 TOPANGA 211F (J McGuigan) J Bennett 4-10-6 L Harvey –

BETTING: 5-2 Tonys Gift, 3-1 Oban, 4-1 Miroswaki, 12-1 Harding, Libertarian, The Quads, 16-1 others.

1995: MEETING ABANDONED — COURSE WATERLOGGED

FORM FOCUS

OBAN beat Glitter Isle 1¾l in 15-runner novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, soft). BUCKLAND LAD 26l 5th of 11 to Oldhill Wood in novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy). HARDING about 9l 4th of 10 to Le Khoumf in novice hurdle at Warwick (3m, good). LIBERTARIAN about 3l 4th of 13 to St Mellion Drive in maiden National Hunt Flat race at Nottingham (2m, good to soft). MEAD COURT 33¼l 6th of 14 to Simply Dashing in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). MIROSWAKI 3½l 2nd of 16 to Kingdom Of Shades in maiden hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy). TONYS GIFT beat Baroncelli 6l in 16-runner novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, heavy). THE QUADS 18l 3rd of 15 to Darter in maiden hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy). TOPANGA 6¼l 3rd of 8 to Eelious in maiden at Yarmouth (1m 6f, firm).
Selection: MIROSWAKI

1.50 WESTENHANGER NOVICES CHASE (£3,306: 3m 2f) (13 runners)

201 0/5/13 UBU VAL 13 (F,G,S) (W Bethell) W Bethell 10-11-10 A S Smith 99
202 0/06 BLACK HILL 63 (A Smith) John Berry 7-11-4 T Lawrence –
203 P000-60 BRINDLEY HOUSE 7 (S) (S Glazer) J White 9-11-4 P McLoughlin –
204 8 BUCKLE DOWN 43 (J Gush) K Bailey 7-11-4 A Thornton –
205 0/06-PPF CAPTAIN DOLFORD 7 (S) (R Brinkworth) D Gandolfo 9-11-4 D Leahy 63
206 000/ COUNTRY LORD 289P (J Power) G Johnson Houghton 7-11-4 E Hogan (3) –
207 00-5FF DUSKY ROVER 9 (B) (G Scott) Miss H Knight 7-11-4 Mr J Culloty (7) 69
208 6P/P/6 JAYSMITH 43 (F,G) (M Wells) J Poulton 10-11-4 L Aspell (5) –
209 /1235/2 OCEAN LEADER 20 (F) (P Gibbings) Mrs D Haine 9-11-4 J F Titley 80
210 06442-0 OJONNYO 81 (S Tindall) M Bradstock 6-11-4 P Holley –
211 2 THE BOOLEY HOUSE 20 (Booley Bunch) O Sherwood 6-11-4 J Osborne 98
212 P0/04-3P THE GOLFING CURATE 9 (S) (C Poore) R Rowe 11-11-4 D O'Sullivan 85
213 3P-3U00 TITAN EMPRESS 7 (S) (T Syder) S Mellor 7-10-13 N Mann 89

BETTING: 6-4 Ubu Val, 4-1 The Booley House, 9-2 Ocean Leader, 7-1 The Golfing Curate, 10-1 Dusky Rover, 14-1 Brindley House, 16-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

UBU VAL 21l 3rd of 8 to Mr Mulligan in the Towton Novices Chase at Wetherby (3m 110yd, good to soft). Previously beat Lets Rumble 2l in 14-runner novice chase at Windsor (3m, good) with DUSKY ROVER (6lb better off) distant 5th and BRINDLEY HOUSE (6lb better off) 6l 6th. DUSKY ROVER disputing 2nd when fell 16th in 8-runner novice chase won by Silverton Lad at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, soft). OCEAN LEADER 7l 2nd of 12 to King Lucifer in novice chase at Nottingham (3m 110yd, good). THE BOOLEY HOUSE 1l 2nd of 11 to Fellow Countryman in novice chase at Nottingham (3m 110yd, good). THE GOLFING CURATE 10l 3rd of 12 to No Pain No Gain in novice chase here (2m 5f, good) on penultimate start.
Selection: UBU VAL

2.20 DAN SWINDEN SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,044: 2m 6f 110yd) (17 runners)

301 1444-P4 NEW TRIBE 48 (D,S) (C Fobery) J White 5-11-13 D Bohan (7) 97
302 6404-00 CARFAX 9 (V,CD,G,S) (Mrs V Maundrell) R Head 11-11-13 G Bradley 99
303 0P-1660 KNYAZ 7 (F,S) (T Cust) Mrs L Richards 6-11-5 Sophie Mitchell (5) 91
304 6000-6P EASTERN PLEASURE 15 (B,S) (Mrs Y Wood) K Burke 9-11-5 M A Fitzgerald 98
305 34021-P DO BE WARE 9 (S) (J Ffitch-Heyes) J Ffitch-Heyes 6-11-3 J R Kavanagh 87
306 606 FULL QUIVER 50 (B) (R Parren) Mrs B Waring 11-11-2 E Byrne 90
307 3544F5 ROGER'S PAL 43 (G,S) (A Moore) A Moore 9-10-12 M Batchelor (7) 91
308 005645- SAFFRON RIVER 317 (V) (J Stranger) W Turner 5-10-10 J Power (7) 89
309 6-30304 ITS GRAND 20 (Avon & West Racing) J Bradley 7-10-9 R Farrant 85
310 330-020 SIR CRUSTY 5 (F,G,S) (Mrs B Small) C Jones 14-10-9 G Upton (3) 95
311 6000 PEPPEROUE 21 (M Sacker) R Rowe 7-10-8 D O'Sullivan –
312 001-P46 DALICADA 19 (CD,BF,S) (E4 Racing) A Carroll 8-10-5 W Marston 90
313 00/006 THE TARTAN DYER 41 (W Bethell) W Bethell 9-10-2 A S Smith 85
314 5/4/36-0 LADY POLY 11F (G) (Harlequin Racing) J Poulton 8-10-1 Leesa Long –
315 P52P-UP CELTIC LILLEY 7 (G) (Mrs J Taylor) R Hoad 6-10-0 B Fenton (5) 95
316 P4/PPP COAL NOT DOLE 15 (B) (Mrs D Upson) J Upson 8-10-0 R Johnson (3) –
317 FPP/PR- NORTH BANNISTER 251 (F,G,S) (Liam Ogest) T McGovern 9-10-0 A P McCoy –

BETTING: 9-2 Its Grand, 6-1 Knyaz, 7-1 Roger's Pal, 8-1 New Tribe, Sir Crusty, 10-1 Do Be Ware, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

KNYAZ 9¼l 7th of 18 to Campo in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 4f, soft). FULL QUIVER 27¾l 6th of 12 to Barney's Gift in claiming hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soft). SAFFRON RIVER 6¾l 4th of 10 to Carabuck in novices' claiming hurdle over course and distance (heavy) on penultimate start. ITS GRAND 14½l 4th of 19 to Haile Derring in novices handicap hurdle at Nottingham (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft).
Selection: ITS GRAND

2.50 FISKE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,138: 2m 1f 110yd) (12 runners)

401 13-510F FLEUR DE TAL 6 (D,F,G) (J Woods) W G M Turner 5-12-0 T C Murphy (7) 99
402 22-0250 SOPHIE MAY 7 (CD,S) (J Daniels) G L Moore 5-11-13 E Murphy 91
403 31351-0 BROWNSIDE BRIG 18 (F,G) (T Lowe) O Sherwood 11-11-12 J Osborne –
404 001410 ARCTIC LIFE 19 (G,S) (Mrs T McCoubrey) J Jenkins 7-11-9 G Bradley 98
405 311-560 IL BAMBINO 19 (S) (H Manners) H Manners 8-11-5 Mr A Wintle (7) 98
406 356345- THUHOOL 352 (CD,G,S) (C Connell) R Rowe 6-11-4 D O'Sullivan 93
407 0-0P513 HAWTHORNE GLEN 15 (BF,F,S) (Mrs G Davison) Mrs M Long 9-10-13 B Fenton (5) 97
408 00-4020 NIGHT IN A MILLION 13 (Leith Hill Chasers) S Woodman 5-10-12 – 97
409 2/3-0500 GAVASKAR 13 (V,F) (Highfivers) G Balding 7-10-7 A P McCoy 92
410 3/P000 RUN FAST FOR GOLD 13 (D,F) (Mrs D Hodges) Miss H Knight 9-10-3 G F Ryan (5) –
411 0P-6000 JAVA SHRINE 47 (J Heathcock) J Tuck 5-10-2 S McNeill 94
412 00P00 STARLIGHT FLYER 15F (B) (T Waters) J Long 9-10-0 Leesa Long –

BETTING: 7-2 Night In A Million, 9-2 Fleur De Tal, 5-1 Thuhool, 7-1 Brownside Brig, 8-1 Run Fast For Gold, Arctic Life, 10-1 Hawthorne Glen, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

FLEUR DE TAL beat Little Hooligan 1¾l in 10-runner claiming hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, good). SOPHIE MAY 5l 2nd of 7 to Zaira in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, good to soft). ARCTIC LIFE beat Broad Outlook 4l in 8-runner novice hurdle at Southwell (2m, good) on penultimate start. HAWTHORNE GLEN 22l 3rd of 20 to Distant Home in selling handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m, heavy). NIGHT IN A MILLION 3l 2nd of 8 to Dontdressfordinner in handicap hurdle over course and distance (good) on penultimate start.
Selection: NIGHT IN A MILLION

3.20 DEAL MAIDEN CHASE (£2,905: 2m) (16 runners)

501 CAPTAIN PINEAPPLE 242P (J Wadham) Mrs L Wadham 6-11-8 E Hogan (3) –
502 84 CHURCHTOWN PORT 50 (J Plackett) P Butler 6-11-8 M A Fitzgerald –
503 0FP0-5P CRACKLING FROST 46 (Industry For Some Partners) Mrs D Haine 8-11-8 J F Titley 69
504 4030/2P CREDON 18 (Fusilier Racing) S Woodman 8-11-8 – –
505 2-45 DANCING PIMPERNEL 209 (A Irons) P Hitchens 10-11-8 A Tory –
506 003-0UP DRUMCULLEN 23 (M Boam) K Bailey 7-11-8 A Thornton –
507 2PB3-22 EARLY DRINKER 6 (B) (S Channing-Williams) O Sherwood 8-11-8 J A McCarthy 99
508 00/P5F- FAMBRIDGE 256 (H Gibbon) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-8 W Marston 77
509 06-356 JOJO 18 (J Greo) D Grissell 6-11-8 M Richards –
510 6/F3-323 POLICEMANS PRIDE 9 (R Dowe) M Madgwick 7-11-8 B Fenton (5) 83
511 .P-3550 PRECIOUS WONDER 34 (D Butler) P Butler 7-11-8 T J Murphy (3) 50
512 6342/PP THE WEST'S ASLEEP 21 (B) (R Spencer) J Ffitch-Heyes 11-11-8 R Johnson (3) –
513 P/PP/P MIDNIGHT MYSTIC 7 (Mrs I Pritchard) P Pritchard 9-11-3 Dr P Pritchard –
514 000-3F5 OUR NIKKI 51 (P Rodford) P Rodford 6-11-3 S Burrough 66
515 346P3-0 POLLY MINOR 50 (Walsh Racing) G Enright 9-11-3 J R Kavanagh –
516 SPARKLING SPIRIT (Horseflies) R Gaselee 8-11-3 C Llewellyn –

BETTING: 5-2 Early Drinker, 6-1 Policemans Pride, 8-1 The West's Asleep, 10-1 Credon, Sparkling Spirit, Fambridge, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

CREDON 3l 2nd of 15 to Maltwood Castle in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m 4f, good) on penultimate start, with JOJO ¾l 3rd. EARLY DRINKER 7l 2nd of 8 to Newhall Prince in novice handicap chase at Ludlow (2m, good). POLICEMANS PRIDE 9l 2nd of 7 to Aedean in novice handicap chase at Lingfield (2m, heavy) on penultimate start. OUR NIKKI 35l 6th of 7 to Bone Setter in novice chase at Ludlow (2m, good to firm).
Selection: EARLY DRINKER (nap)

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell P — pulled up U — unseated rider B — brought down S — slipped up R — refused D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat (B — blinkers V — visor H — hood E — Eyeshield C — course winner D — distance winner CD — course and distance winner BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard G — good S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

3.50 LEVY BOARD MARES ONLY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,437: 2m 1f 110yd) (12 runners)

601 1-133PU DARK NIGHTINGALE 11 (G) (Miss L Clark) O Sherwood 5-12-0 J Osborne 94
602 560 ASHBY HILL 11 (Mrs M Humphreys) R Rowe 5-11-10 D O'Sullivan 93
603 00-0 HARVEST VIEW 19 (P Brown) C Brooks 6-11-5 G Bradley 82
604 400-000 CHOWPOR 7 (B) (T Cullen) A Carroll 5-11-3 B Powell 90
605 121044 SAXON MAGIC 21 (D,F,S) (Miss J Stockwell) J Bennett 6-11-2 Sophie Mitchell 98
606 044-0 INDIAN SUMMIT 15 (F Sainsbury) Mrs M Jones 6-10-11 D Byrne 96
607 60U500- ROMANY BLUES 431 (H Sibley) A Jones 7-10-10 S Curran 96
608 F50 LADY LACEY 13 (V) (Mrs K Perrin) G Balding 9-10-9 A P McCoy 87
609 056-6P0 WHAT'S THE JOKE 11 (J Tuck) J Tuck 7-10-6 S McNeill 99
610 /UPP/ DUKES HOPE 1472 (Miss L Bower) Miss L Bower 9-10-0 Maj O Ellwood –
611 0-0PPFP THE BIZZO 34 (J Panvert) J Panvert 5-10-0 G Hogan –
612 5-060P0 FLY IN AMBER 53 (G French Davis) D French Davis 5-10-0 T Lawrence 79

BETTING: 3-1 Dark Nightingale, 5-1 What's The Joke, 6-1 Lady Lacey, 7-1 Harvest View, 8-1 Ashby Hill, 9-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

DARK NIGHTINGALE best recent effort 15¾l 3rd of 10 to Goldenswift in conditional jockeys novice handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, good). ASHBY HILL about 39¾l 6th of 15 to Darter in maiden hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy). LADY LACEY 29½l 5th of 12 to Master Beveled in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good to soft).
Selection: DARK NIGHTINGALE

4.20 TED LONG CHALLENGE CUP AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP CHASE (£2,969: 2m 5f) (17 runners)

1 3211/14 ROYAL SQUARE 43 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs C Clavell) G Harwood 10-12-0 Mrs A Perrett (3) 87
2 F2-P0F0 MAESTRO PAUL 6 (F,G,S) (H Pelham) J Gifford 10-11-11 P O'Keeffe (7) –
3 3-0316F CONTI D'ESTRUVAL 18 (D,F,G) (B Neary) G Balding 6-11-10 A Balding (7) 87
4 2/P3-1F ROCCO 89 (BF,G,S) (M Oberstein) S Sherwood 9-11-9 M Fitzgerald (7) 93
5 40/4-11U LE CHAT NOIR 12 (CD,F,G,S) (F Parsons) D Grissell 13-11-7 M Armytage 80
6 24/3233 KITTINGER 19 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs T Pritchard) P Pritchard 15-11-6 P Pritchard (7) 84
7 F1223/P DEEPENDABLE 48 (V,G) (P Stone) Mrs L Richards 9-11-3 J Durkan –
8 4/41P4 TRICKSOME 36 (D,F,G,S) (Lady Vestey) Miss H Knight 9-11-2 J Culloty (7) 85
9 P4P-546 OPAL'S TENSPOT 7 (F,G,S) (Miss J Marles) J Bradley 9-10-12 M Daly (7) 85
10 6133U5 GREEN WALK 48 (F) (C Cornwell) R Rowe 9-10-10 A Kinane (7) 83
11 1F4U3-0 EMBLEY BUOY 40 (S) (Mrs H Baie) J Mullins 8-10-4 P Henley (5) 82
12 334-213 RIVAGE BLEU 39 (BF,G) (C King) J King 9-10-3 M Rimell (5) 99
13 4-4552U COOL CHARACTER 68 (G) (N Elliott) R Buckler 8-10-0 J Jukes (7) 89
14 433-P34 MIRAGE DANCER 91 (D,F) (Miss C Caroe) Miss C Caroe 13-10-0 G Barnes 87
15 P6F6P-0 RHOMAN FUN 23 (G) (Martyrs To Racing) R Buckler 7-10-0 R Thornton (7) 83
16 0/P00-0 TOP MISS 228 (A Neaves) A Neaves 7-10-0 D Marland (7) –
17 0/00/ VIRBAZAR 697P (Mrs E Smyth-Osbourne) J Old 9-10-0 J Smyth-Osbourne (7) –

BETTING: 3-1 Rocco, 6-1 Le Chat Noir, Royal Square, 10-1 Conti d'Estruval, Rivage Bleu, Kittinger, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

CONTI D'ESTRUVAL best effort this term beat Change The Act 7l in 5-runner handicap chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good to firm). LE CHAT NOIR beat Manahouthehouse ¾l in conditionals handicap chase here (2m, good). RIVAGE BLEU beat Bewaredare 11l in 8-runner novice handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good).
Selection: LE CHAT NOIR

US chaser out

LONESOME GLORY, the top American chaser, has been ruled out of the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup after finishing a well beaten fourth in the Peter Marsh Chase at Haydock on Saturday.

Bruce Miller, his trainer in America, is taking the gelding back from Charlie Brooks.

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Old faces are back to take on Italy

Hodges returns as Gould rings the changes for Wales

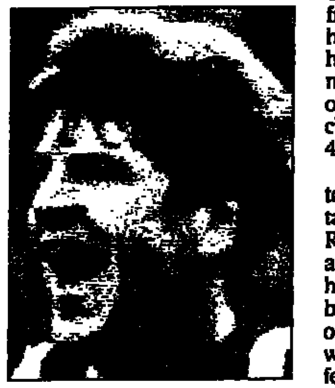
FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON IN ROME

GLYN HODGES, the Sheffield United midfield player, resurrects his international career in the steel-making city of Terni, 50 miles north of Rome, this evening. When Wales take on Italy, finalists for the European championship, it will be his first start since the 1-1 draw with Austria in Vienna in April 1992.

For Hodges, 32, it is a surprise opportunity to revive his chances of playing a key role in the qualifying campaign for the 1998 World Cup: for Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, it is another example of his continuing assessment of anybody and everybody as he treads carefully in still alien waters. He succeeded Mike Smith in August and it is only his fourth match in charge.

"I would like to get some continuity, of course I would, but we will be missing Mark Pembridge in midfield and Glyn will do a good job," Gould said. "We need balance on that left-hand side and he will give us that. He is also tremendous at set-piece situations, which is vitally important in any game."

Gould makes eight changes *from the side which drew 1-1* against Albania in their final European championship qualifying match in November. Injuries and unavailability have forced a revamped line-up, although it appears stronger than the one he fielded in Tirana. Ian Rush and Mark Hughes return in an ageing yet still potent attack, with Rush winning his *73rd cap*.


Hodges: set-piece skills

Such an experimental and untried formation is not necessarily the best system to employ against Italy. Arrigo Sacchi, the manager, might frequently chop and change his side, too, but he has earned his reputed salary of $4.8 million (around £3.2 million) over his four-year stint in charge, with only six defeats in 44 matches.

At least Wales will not have to face the likes of the multi-talented Baggios — Dino and Roberto — Signori, Vialli and Maldini tonight. Injury has ruled out four of them, but Vialli's absence is because of his persistent feud with Sacchi, which has festered for more than two years.

Had Gould's difference of opinion with Hughes gone on much longer — the Chelsea striker was left out against Albania and, subsequently, because of a misunderstanding, he declined to travel — Gould could have found himself in a similar situation to Sacchi.

In the end, it was the manager who ate humble pie. "I told Mark I'd made a mistake and he told me it wasn't a problem any more," Gould said. "You've got to hold your hands up sometimes and admit you are wrong, and I did."

A sensible conclusion to a potentially awkward predicament that, appropriately, will be cemented this evening in Terni — the birthplace of St Valentine.

WALES: N Southall (Everton), S Jenkins (Huddersfield Town), A Williams (Reading), D Phillips (Nottingham Forest), K Symons (Manchester City), C Coleman (Blackburn Rovers), B Horne (Everton), G Speed (Leeds United), G Hodges (Sheffield United), M Hughes (Chelsea), I Rush (Liverpool).

ITALY (probable): A Peruzzi (Juventus), R Mussi (Parma), C Ferrara (Juventus), A Costacurta (AC Milan), A Carboni (Roma), A Di Livio (Juventus), D Albertini (AC Milan), R Di Matteo (Lazio), A Del Piero (Juventus), F Ravanelli (Juventus), G Zola (Parma).

Newcastle close to signing Asprilla

FAUSTINO ASPRILLA, the Colombia striker, could join Newcastle United before the weekend. Asprilla met Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, late yesterday to discuss a proposed £6.7 million move to Tyneside, which would be a club record for the FA Carling Premiership leaders, and, although nothing has been signed, a deal appears imminent.

The talks between the player and the Newcastle party — comprising Keegan, his assistant, Terry McDermott, a club director, Douglas Hall, the son of the club chairman, Sir John Hall, and the Newcastle vice-chairman, Freddie Shepherd — took place at a secret location between Parma and Rome and followed a successful meeting between Keegan and his colleagues and the Parma general director, Gianbatista Pastorello.

Pastorello, who is responsible for all transfer activity carried out by the *Serie A* club, said that the negotiations had gone well: "Between the two clubs, we have more or less agreed the fee that should be paid for Asprilla. The player himself wants to go to Newcastle, but at this stage nothing has been signed."

Asprilla has become surplus to requirements at Parma this season, with Alessandro Melli and Gianfranco Zola the preferred partnership of Nevio Scala, the club's coach, in attack. Even Hristo Stoichkov, the former European Footballer of the Year, has been reduced to the role of substitute.

Michael Frontzek, the Germany international left back, completed his transfer to Manchester City from Borussia Mönchengladbach for £350,000 yesterday.

Krol's fast route to united front

Rob Hughes on a Dutchman with all the qualities needed to succeed Terry Venables

GARY M PRIOR/ALLSPORT

Krol is bringing his experience to Egyptian football after gaining his coaching qualification in England

Ruud Krol is a coach of many colours, a football man who has been fulfilled as a player in every competition, and who now is hungry. He took charge of Egypt last October, and now this man, whose 83 caps at left back for Holland included two World Cup finals, and who gained his coaching certificate in England, meets his severest test.

Egypt must win today against South Africa, in front of 80,000 Sowetans, in the heat of the African afternoon if they are to progress beyond the first round of the African Nations Cup. Their main problem is that, as dictated by their Muslim religion, the Egyptians have to fast during Ramadan, to eat nothing through the seemingly interminable daylight hours under the African sun. And, "to better understand how my players feel", Krol has joined their fast from last Sunday.

"I'm trying to change their mentality, their way of playing," he told me. "Recently we watched together, on television, Newcastle United versus Blackburn Rovers. My players loved the fast tempo, they were crazy about it. But when I show them the work that they must do to achieve that, they do not want to suffer, they are not prepared to die in the field for the result, the way English players are."

But Krol, though his contract says he has until 1998 to mould an Egyptian World Cup challenge, knows that defeat against a South African side unbeaten for 15 games and for a calendar year could see him dismissed. Two national coaches, of Mozambique and Burkina Faso, have already been dismissed because, in any language, any ideology, the result means more than the performance.

And yet Krol, at least at the bar at midnight, gives every impression of being happy. "I love football, it is my life, and I would work with players anywhere in the world. I was puzzled, a week ago, wondering why the Arabic teams in this tournament — Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria — didn't appear to be as strong, physically, as the central and southern Africans. I don't think it is only a matter of diet. The teams from North Africa seem reluctant to play adventurously, and I love creative players."

He found that Egypt, like other Arabic teams, clung to five players at the back, and to a system that relies on their unquestioned technique, even though, in recent African nations tournaments, they have been often out-muscled and overcome by the spirit of countries like Ghana, the absent Nigeria and even Zambia, who are performing well in the competition, just three years after losing 18 players in a plane crash.

There are other obvious advantages for South Africa. Johannesburg lies 1,800 metres above sea level, the South Africa team has the advantage over Egypt of two extra rest days, and obviously home support. But is it a question of altitude or attitude?

Krol has no doubts. To try to build character into his men — mostly young players that he moulded into a team aiming for Olympic qualification — he alarms them, literally. They train three times a day — at 7.30am, 11.30am and 6pm. "At Ajax we sometimes trained five times a day with Rinus Michels. He did it to create a bond, to instil character … I'm trying now to change the way of Egyptian football. They don't like it, possibly they don't like me, and they are straight back to bed after the early morning session."

And yet, in training, you can see the Egyptians begin to respect their mentor. Hazem Emam, just 20, the player from the giant Cairo club, Zamalek, wears number 14. One wonders if Krol has told the youngster that that was the shirt worn in Dutch orange by the master of them all, Johan Cruyff.

Maybe not, but they have done a lot of talking in Johannesburg. Emam is a hypnotic play-maker; his feet are quick, he controls the ball at a touch, he has the confidence to take men on and a vision to open up the play. A performer, observes Krol, like Steve McManaman.

"I have told Hazem that I love his tremendous dribbling, his vision also. But it is six months since I trained him with the Olympic squad, and in that time, back with his club, he has changed. I want him to be my joker in the team, but to do that he must be not only creative but effective," Krol said. Today, in the Soccer City stadium, Emam will have an extra onus because Neil Tovey, captain of South Africa, says the intention is "to send the Egyptians packing".

> 'I love football, it is my life and I would coach anywhere in the world'

South Africa need a point to ensure that they play the quarter-finals in the vast Johannesburg arena. Win or lose, say the kindly Egyptian federation directors, Krol is their man. He has the charisma to charm players, the past experience to put medals on the table at the hint of an argument, although no doubt Mozambique told their coach, Rui Cacader, and Burkino Faso told theirs, Idrissa Traore, that they were the chosen men also. They dismissed them after two results in South Africa.

Should that fate befall Krol, surely England should make an approach. He admits his FA coaching badge was a matter of convenience, that he could acquire a certificate at Lilleshall in four weeks, whereas it took four years to become a certified coach in Holland. Even though the FA has indicated foreigners need not apply for the job vacated by Terry Venables in July, they could at least speak to the man who qualified on English soil.

Cairns hits nine sixes to rattle Zimbabwe

CHRIS CAIRNS hit one of the most spectacular centuries in Test match history yesterday as New Zealand produced an imposing total of 441 for five declared, setting Zimbabwe 367 to win the second Test.

Cairns hit nine sixes and ten fours on his way to 120 off 96 balls on the fourth day of the deciding Test in Auckland. His feat ranked second only to the great Walter Hammond's for the most sixes — ten — in a Test innings. Cairns's first Test hundred came off just 86 balls.

Zimbabwe, 39 without loss at the close, need a further 328 runs off a minimum 90 overs to win.

☐ Paul Hutchison took five for 11 as Zimbabwe were bowled out for 47 in the under-19 match against England in Harare. At the close of the first day, England were 120 for four.

Higgins trails

Snooker: Alex Higgins, successful in only one of his 11 matches this season, faced elimination from the Embassy world championship in Blackpool last night. After the opening session of his best-of-19 frames meeting with Surinder Gill, of Bournemouth, in the eighth qualifying round, Higgins, the world champion in both 1972 and 1982, trailed 6-3.

Defeat at the hands of Gill, a market trader who is 98th in the world rankings, would end by far the worst season of Higgins's 25-year career.

☐ David Gray, 16, the youngest English amateur champion, has joined the Team Sweater Shop professional stable.

Big chance

Bowls: Mike Morgan, who describes himself as a part-time bowler, could earn the chance to compete against top players such as Andy Thomson, the world indoor singles champion, and Richard Corsie, the Commonwealth Games gold medal-winner, when the CIS Insurance Championships get underway at Llanelli today.

If Morgan, who is not even a regular member of the Llanelli league side, can win the Welsh title in front of his home crowd, he will join the stars in tomorrow's world-class Welsh Masters event.

In today's national semi-finals, Morgan meets Carl Lewis, of Merthyr, while Brenig Powell, of Port Talbot, will try to stop John Price, the 1990 world champion.

Knauss encore

Skiing: Hans Knauss, of Austria, clinched his second World Cup win when he triumphed in a super-giant slalom in the French resort of Valloire yesterday. Knauss, 24, whose first win came in a giant slalom last month, took advantage of perfect conditions to upstage Atle Skaardal, of Norway, and Fredrik Nyberg, of Sweden.

Rugby league puts power of television to good use

Lindsay: demanding

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

RUGBY league, which prides itself on its innovatory outlook, is to follow cricket in having a television official. The so-called video referee will adjudicate on hairline scoring decisions behind the tryline.

The off-field official will do away with the two in-goal judges, introduced last year, although the system will, initially, be used only in televised Super League matches from March. Decisions via a two-way communication with the referee will take between 30 and 45 seconds. Spotting foul play is believed to be adequately dealt with by the new "on report" system, in which video evidence is studied later.

"This is purely a way of improving the ability to pinpoint the bounced ball over the line, or the dubious-looking try at the corner flag," Greg McCallum, the Rugby Football League (RFL) referees' director, said. "All our referees are fully supportive of this technological advancement."

It was one of a series of measures in keeping with the theme of "modern thinking" that was announced yesterday by Maurice Lindsay, the RFL chief executive. He has his sword poised over Highfield, Chorley and Doncaster for not coming up to scratch on the pitch, but other clubs must come up to scratch by meeting minimum standards off it. For those not complying with strict guidelines on ground facilities, finance and administration, the ultimate sanction is expulsion from the Super League.

"The excitement of the game will always attract people to manage rugby league, but, when they get there, they have to think of it as a business, otherwise they won't survive," Lindsay said.

Just as Highfield, Chorley and Doncaster will be called to account for their playing inadequacies by the Rugby League Council on February 9, Lindsay wants firm guarantees from potential newcomers. Blackpool's application for re-admission to the second division was rejected, while those from Northampton and Aberavon must be backed by assurances on playing and financial competitiveness.

In the shifting sands of the new summer game, the Challenge Cup has proved itself the one immovable object. The springtime Wembley final is to remain. There seems to be no room for the Regal Trophy, even though discussions with the BBC are said to be ongoing.

In addition, the overseas player quota has been raised from three to five; Phil Larder, of Keighley, has been confirmed as Great Britain's coach for the October tour of Australasia, with Gary Hetherington, of Sheffield, and Clive Griffiths, the Wales coach, his assistants; and a combined Oceania side will tour here at the same time to play England A, Ireland, Wales, Huddersfield, Hull and Salford.

☐ St Helens have confirmed the appointment of Shaun McRae, the Canberra assistant coach, who will be in charge for the Challenge Cup visit to Castleford on Saturday.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

BAXCOL LIMITED
(the "Company")

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN. Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 175 of the Companies Act 1985 ("the Act") that

(1) the Company has approved a payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring its own shares by purchase

(2) the amount of the permissible capital payment for the shares in question is £100,000 and the special resolution approving such payment out of capital was passed on 23 January 1996

(3) the statutory declaration of the directors and the auditors' report required by sections 173 and 174 of the Act are available for inspection at the Company's registered office at Unit 1 Oakberry Road, Lutterworth, Leicestershire LE17 4PP.

(4) any creditor of the Company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following 23 January 1996 apply to the court under sections 176 and 177 of the Act for an order prohibiting the payment

Dated 24 January 1996
Pinsent Curtis
3 Colmore Circus,
Birmingham, B4 6BH
Ref: SDG/06102 0002 7/RS

M J MARJON LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London, W2 6LF on 8th February 1996 at 12 01 pm for the purposes provided for in Section 99 et seq.

A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10 00 am and 4 00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
Dated this 18th January 1996
MARTIN CROSS, Director.

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
William Irwin
& Co (Midlands) Ltd
Registered number: 396393 Trading name(s) Irwins Nature of business: General builders/Joinery Trade classification 5001/5006. Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s) 16 January 1996 Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s) National Westminster Bank plc. Names of administrative receivers: A J P Brereton, I C Powell and R Marsh Office Holder No.(s) 5684, 7852 and 5925 Address York House, York Street, Manchester, M2 4WS.

No 1995 - H - 30177
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF
NIKKEI EUROPE ALUMINIUM LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice, (Chancery Division), Birmingham District Registry dated 21st December 1995 confirming the reduction of the issued share capital of the above named Company from £300,000 to £2 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 12th January 1996
DATED this 24th day of January 1996
Eversheds,
10 Newhall Street,
Birmingham B3 3LX
Solicitors
for the above-named Company
Ref GJS/116
Tel. 0121 233 2001

NOTICE
TO THE CREDITORS OF
MILES TURNBULL (TOOLS) LIMITED
Company Number. 669812
TAMWEST LIMITED (Formerly Henry Osborn, Limited)
Company Number 170686
WERNAL TOOLS & ABRASIVES LIMITED
Company Number 1868937
(ALL IN MEMBERS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

On 15 January 1996, the above companies were placed in Members Voluntary Liquidation and Ian Clifford Powell and Anthony John Patrick Brereton of Price Waterhouse York House, York Street, Manchester, M2 4WS, were appointed joint liquidators by the shareholders

The joint liquidators give notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the companies must send details in writing of any claims against the companies to the joint liquidators at the above address by Thursday 29 February 1996 which is the last day for proving claims. The joint liquidators also give notice that they will make a final distribution to creditors and that any creditors who do not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution

The companies are able to pay all their known creditors in full
Dated: 18 January 1996
I C Powell, Joint Liquidator

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
William Irwin & Co (North) Limited
Registered number 1282450 Trading name(s): Nature of business General Builders. Trade classification. 5001 Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s) 16 January 1996 Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s) National Westminster Bank plc. Names of administrative receivers A J P Brereton, I C Powell and R Marsh. Office Holder No.(s) 5684, 7852 and 5925 Address, York House, York Street, Manchester, M2 4WS

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
William Irwin & Co (South) Limited
Registered number: 1187165 Trading name(s) Irwins Nature of business: General builders. Trade classification 5001 Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s) 16 January 1996 Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s). National Westminster Bank plc Names of administrative receivers: A J P Brereton, I C Powell and R Marsh. Office Holder No(s) 5684 7852 and 5925. Address York House, York Street, Manchester M2 4WS.

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
Rowland and Huntley Limited
Registered number 840437 Trading name(s): Nature of business Specialists in French polishing. Trade classification 5029 Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s) 16 January 1996 Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s). National Westminster Bank plc. Names of administrative receivers. A J P Brereton and I C Powell and R Marsh Office Holder No (s) 5684 7852 and 5925. Addresses York House, York Street, Manchester, M2 4WS

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
The Irwin Group Limited
Registered number 1453602. Trading name(s) Nature of business Holding company Trade classification: 9600 Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s) 16 January 1996 Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s) National Westminster Bank plc Names of administrative receivers. A J P Brereton and I C Powell and R Marsh. Office Holder No(s) 5684, 7852 and 5925 Address. York House, York Street Manchester M2 4WS.

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
William Irwin & Co Limited
Registered number 976112 Trading name(s) Nature of business. Property owning and managing. Trade classification 8630 Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s) 16 January 1996 Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s) National Westminster Bank plc Names of administrative receivers: A J P Brereton, I C Powell and R Marsh Office Holder No (s) 5584, 7852 and 5925. Address. York House, York Street, Manchester, M2 4WS.

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
William Irwin & Co (East) Limited
Registered number 1282449 Trading name(s) Irwins. Nature of business. General builders Trade classification: 5001. Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 16 January 1996. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers. National Westminster Bank plc Names of administrative receivers A J P Brereton, I C Powell and R Marsh. Office Holder No (s) 5584, 7852 and 5925 Address York House York Street, Manchester M2 4WS

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
Irwin Tomlinson Limited
Registered number 589306 Trading name(s) Nature of business. General builders. Trade classification: 5001 Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s) 16 January 1996 Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s) National Westminster Bank plc Names of administrative receivers. A J P Brereton, I C Powell and R Marsh. Office Holder No.(s) 5584, 7852 and 5925 Address York House, York Street Manchester, M2 4WS.

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
Bradford Limited
Registered number 486892. Trading name(s): Nature of business Dormant company Trade classification 9999 Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s) 16 January 1996. Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s): National Westminster Bank plc Names of administrative receivers. A J P Brereton, I C Powell and R Marsh Office Holder No(s) 5684, 7852 and 5925 Address: York House, York Street, Manchester, M2 4WS.

SKY RAIL OCEANIC LIMITED
Registered Number: 648145. Trading Name: Goodmos Tours. Trade Classification: 31 Nature of Business: Travel Agents. Date of appointment of Administrative Receivers: 12th January 1996. Name of person appointing the Administrative Receivers: Midland Bank Plc. Joint Administrative Receivers JJ Schapira and KD Goodman FCA (Office holder nos: 5784 and 2407) Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF.

SUMMERFIELD RESOURCES LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London, W2 6LF, on 8th February 1996 at 12 00 noon for the purposes provided for in Section 98 et seq.

A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10 00 am to 4 00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
Dated this 18th January 1996
M. CROSS, Director.

THE SCREEN DEVELOPMENT GROUP LIMITED
Company Number: 2738162

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT At an extraordinary general meeting of the above company held at 110 St. Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4AD on 22 January 1996, a special resolution was passed in respect of the redemption of 24 12% Preference Shares of £5,000 each. The amount of the permissible capital payment was £120,000.00

The Statutory Declaration and auditors' report dated 22 January 1996 are available for inspection at 10 Gatehill Road, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 3QD, the registered office of the company.

Any creditor of the company may apply to the High Court pursuant to Section 176 of the Companies Act 1985 within 5 weeks immediately following the date of the aforementioned special resolution, for an order prohibiting the payment.
Dated. 22/01/96
Signed: ZFH Ranlwala.

THE STATESMAN & NATION PUBLISHING COMPANY LTD
Registered number 258091. Nature of Business. Publishers Administration Order made 18th January 1996 Joint Administrators. Scott Barnes and Malcolm Shierson (office holder nos 6323 and 5330) of Grant Thornton, Grant Thornton House, 22 Melton Street, Euston Square, London NW1 2EP

Federation bans Hill for two years

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

ANTHONY HILL, the Australian third string whose aggressive and undisciplined conduct cost his country a place in the final of the world team squash championship in Cairo last November, has been banned for two years from World Squash Federation (WSF) events.

Hill, 26, from Melbourne, was charged with verbal and physical abuse against Mir Zaman Gul, his opponent, verbal abuse and dissent against Tony Parker, the referee, throwing his racket and bringing the game into disrepute. He entered no defence.

The WSF disciplinary committee ruled that Hill had "seriously violated" four sections of the WSF code of conduct in Cairo and should not be allowed to play in the World Cup, the world team championship or any other WSF event before 1998. No squash player has previously been banned by any of the sport's governing bodies for more than 12 months.

Last month, Hill was banned for three months and fined £1,400 by the Professional Squash Association (PSA) for dissent and bad behaviour during the World Open championship that preceded the team event. He faces a further PSA penalty, of 12 months' suspension and a fine of £2,000, if reports of dissent and referee abuse in the Qatar International in December are substantiated and he is therefore carried into the next level of the PSA accumulator penalty system. His case could provide the impetus for a combined approach to discipline in world squash.

Hill, who developed in the Australian Institute of Squash in Brisbane, first brushed with authority when he was involved in a head-butting incident while playing Gul in the 1994 British Open championship in London.

Exercere Cup results, page 45

Crystal Palace play for higher stakes

FAR more will be at stake for Crystal Palace tonight than mere progress in basketball's National Cup (Nicholas Harling writes). The last first division survivors in the competition realise that the Budweiser League will find it harder than ever to reject their promotion claims for a fourth successive year should they defeat the Leopards, or even give a good account of themselves, in the quarter-final at the National Sports Centre.

After 44 successive wins against first division opposition, Alton Byrd, the Palace player-coach, knows that his squad, unbeaten in domestic competitions this season, are ready to step up a class — but the Leopards are among those clubs who have persuaded the League not to accept Palace. So, too, have London Towers and the Budweiser League's bottom club, Hemel Hempstead Royals — who receive Birmingham Bullets in tonight's other quarter-final — because they fear that the Home Counties cannot accommodate another club at the highest level.

"We are getting tired of being treated as outcasts," Byrd said. Conquerors of Doncaster Panthers, from the Budweiser League, in the last round, Palace are only too aware that the tie against the Leopards has come at an opportune moment, since Billy Mims's players have slipped up badly in their last two games, losing by 22 points at Birmingham last week and by 14 to Sheffield Sharks on Sunday. "If ever there was a time to create another sensation, this is it," Byrd said.

DISCOVERY DATA: MOST EXPENSIVE ROADCAR: McLAREN F1: £540,000

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Cejka has style to follow in Langer's footsteps

Who will follow in the footsteps of Bernhard Langer, Severiano Ballesteros and Nick Faldo, and lead European golf into a new era? In the second of his three articles on the eve of the 1996 Tour, ***John Hopkins*** *looks for the emerging talent*

ON A wintry day 15 years ago, Bernhard Langer opened the door of his parents' house in Germany and, with a slow, shy smile, beckoned his visitors to come inside. Above the kitchen door was a maxim: *Friede den Kommenden, Freude den Bleibenden, Segen den Scheidenden*, which, colloquially, means peace, joy and blessings to inhabitants and visitors. Inside, a rectangular table was laden with *Krapfen* (doughnut-like cakes) and *Apfelkuchen* and *Schlagsahne* (apple slices and whipped cream).

Later, Langer showed his visitors around the St Adelgundis Roman Catholic church in Anhausen, where he had been an altar boy and celebrated Mass when he was at home. He took them to meet Heinz Fehring, the head professional at the Munich Golf Club, where Langer began his career. It was the start of a memorable year for Langer, one which culminated in him making his debut in the Ryder Cup.

Fifteen years later, another man who lives in Germany is poised for a memorable year, one that may match Langer's in 1981. The way that Alexander Cejka, 25, broke through in Europe in 1995 suggests that his should be the first name to be written down of those who are expected to make their first appearances in the 1997 Ryder Cup at Valderrama. Two victories in lesser events made the world take note of both his name and the extravagant length of his hair, which was sometimes restrained by a pony-tail. His stunning capture of the Volvo Masters at the end of the year, by which time he had adopted a crew-cut hairstyle, marked the Czech-born resident of Munich as the most exciting golfer to emerge from Germany since Langer.

Cejka's performance at Valderrama was outstanding, particularly for a young player. He kept his nerve, he was not intimidated and, when he had a chance to win, he took it. Colin Montgomerie and Sam Torrance, at that moment first and second in the Volvo Order of Merit, were keeping an eye on each other and almost everybody else was watching these two. That was perfect for Cejka. All but unnoticed, he raced past them with a closing nine holes of 32, including five birdies.

The list of potential newcomers in the next Ryder Cup is not a long one and the names may not sound very convincing when set alongside more experienced players. In part, this is because of what can be called "The Opposition Theory". Just as politicians rarely make their true mark when not in government, so most golfers have to wait until their debut in the Ryder Cup before they can demonstrate the full measure of their courage and skill. Of course there are exceptions to the rule, men like Severiano Ballesteros, who was recognisably close to genius long before he was able to compete in his first Ryder Cup in 1979.

If Cejka tops the list of contenders for the team in 20 months' time, other candidates include Darren Clarke and a slew of Swedes — Anders Forsbrand, Jarmo Sandelin (the rookie of the year in 1995) and Jesper Parnevik, who finished seventeenth on the European money-list and 84th in the United States last year. Gordon Sherry, the Amateur champion, who is expected to turn professional after this year's Masters at Augusta, might be a long shot, as might Stephen Gallacher, who was in last year's Walker Cup team, and Steven Webster, the winner of the amateur medal at the Open Championship, who was not.

Clarke finished eighth in the Order of Merit in 1993 and fourteenth last year. It is questionable which is bigger, his appetite or his potential. It is also worth questioning whether, in curbing the former, he has not lost some of the latter. Time is running out for Forsbrand, who was the favourite to be the first Swede to appear in the Ryder Cup until, somehow, Joakim Haeggman overtook him in 1993, but it would be no surprise to see the man who is Valderrama's touring professional in the team.

Philip Walton and Per-Ulrik Johansson were the two rookies in the 1995 Ryder Cup team. Cejka, sixth in last year's money-list, finished above both of them — Walton was thirteenth and Johansson nineteenth. He seems to have it all, a calm temperament, a sensible head and, in the eyes of John Jacobs, the eminent teaching professional, a very good swing. "I seem to have spent my life preaching golf's basic principles," Jacobs wrote recently in *Golf World*. "This young man demonstrates them quite beautifully."

TOMORROW

The new season tees off

Cejka: potential

Foster aims to deliver technical knockout

Craig Lord unravels complex methods that separate the good swimmers from the great

MARK FOSTER is 6ft 6in, weighs 200lb and travels at *13mph from a standing jump* that lifts him 33 inches off the ground before gravity gains the upper hand. He puts this motion to best use not on the basketball court, but off the blocks in a swimming pool.

If his assets are a prodigious physique and a natural explosive power that make his dive so devastating and create a momentum good enough to break world records up to 50 metres, the smallest race distance, his weaknesses are a flawed freestyle technique and the resulting exhaustion that takes hold 15 metres from the end of a 50-metre race.

In a 25-metre short-course pool, Foster finds these deficiencies less inhibiting: the turning process helps to ease fatigue and the wall itself allows an infusion of leg-driven impetus to a discipline in which 90 per cent of the power is generated by the arms. He holds the world record for the 50 metres butterfly, a non-Olympic event, and is third fastest in the world in the 50 metres freestyle. He is also the short-course World Cup sprint champion, a title he started to defend in Sheffield yesterday, in the first of six European rounds of the competition.

In a 50-metre Olympic pool, the halfway "comfort zone" does not exist; Foster's flaws are laid bare. At least, that is, until now. For Foster, 9lb leaner, at 194lb, has emerged from winter workouts in Cardiff with his coach, Dave Haller, with an altered technique.

After the European championships in Vienna last summer, when Foster, visibly tense, finished fourth to Alexander Popov, a Russian who is among the smoothest stylists in the history of the sport, Haller decided that Foster must change the bad habits of a lifetime. To identify them, he engaged the services of Rein Haljand, an Estonian scientist, and travelled to the Olympic testing centre at Hamburg to have his charge's stroke analysed.

Ding Chujin, 20, of China, not among the best 100 in the world last year in the 50 metres breaststroke, won in 27.88sec in Sheffield yesterday — fast enough to have been sixth in the world last year.

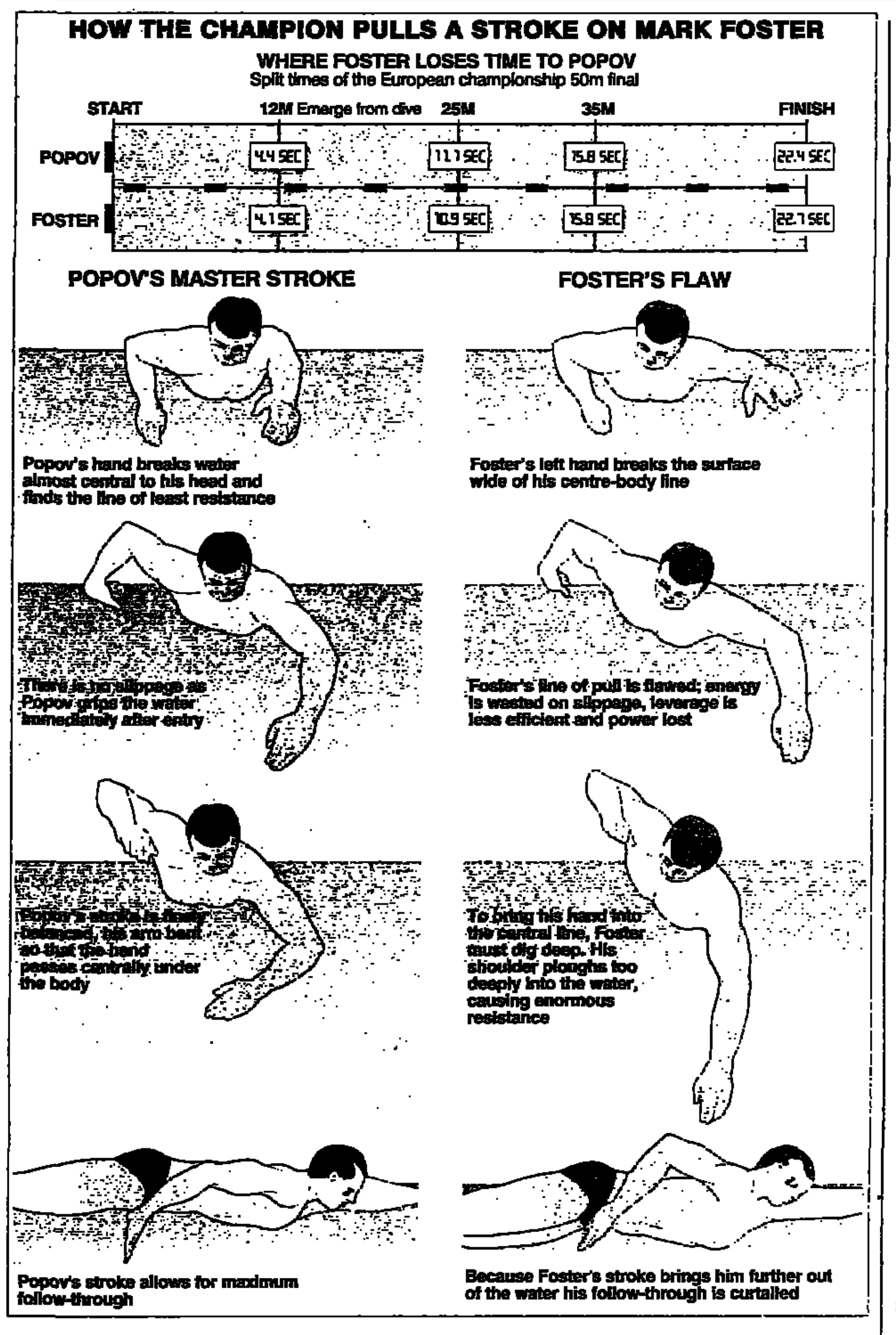
Slow-motion film taken while Foster was swimming "on the spot" in the aquatic equivalent of a treadmill proved enlightening to the technicians. They deduced that his head was too high and that he brought his left hand into the water at a wide angle, digging it so deep into the water to compensate for the position of his head that his shoulder sank with it.

The result: too much resistance to the water and tension in his neck and shoulder muscles that left him drained of energy at the conclusion of the race. His shoulder-roll was also affecting his backward push: while Popov, the Olympic champion, was travelling 2.45 metres per arm-stroke, his British rival was covering up to 27 centimetres less.

The statistic also owes a little to Popov's more fluid kick. Power tests in the gym mirrored the Vienna race (see graphic): Foster achieves peak power at 5.3 seconds, while fatigue begins at 12 seconds. In the actual race, Foster emerged from the dive at 4.1 seconds, 0.5 metres ahead, was still ahead at 25 metres, caught by 35 metres and passed in the closing 15 metres. He hopes his new-found fitness and stroke can break that mould by the time he gets to Atlanta in July.

Yesterday, Foster, 25, was using Sheffield as a barometer to see if he can achieve, in a few short months, the mastery of water it has taken Popov years to perfect. Third place in the 100 metres in a reasonable 50.04sec was less important than the manner of its execution; the head was lower, the shoulders more relaxed and there was no sign of localised fatigue. Foster races the more telling 50 metres today and will doubtless be much faster at the World Cup final next month. Meanwhile, one giant step on the road to Atlanta seems to have been taken.

HOW THE CHAMPION PULLS A STROKE ON MARK FOSTER



WHERE FOSTER LOSES TIME TO POPOV
Split times of the European championship 50m final
START
12M Emerge from dive
25M
35M
FINISH
POPOV
4.4 SEC
11.7 SEC
15.8 SEC
22.4 SEC
FOSTER
4.1 SEC
10.9 SEC
15.8 SEC
22.7 SEC
POPOV'S MASTER STROKE
FOSTER'S FLAW
Popov's hand breaks water almost central to his head and finds the line of least resistance
Foster's left hand breaks the surface wide of his centre-body line
There is no slippage as Popov grips the water immediately after entry
Foster's line of pull is flawed; energy is wasted on slippage, leverage is less efficient and power lost
Popov's stroke is finely balanced, his arm bent so that the hand passes centrally under the body
To bring his hand into the central line, Foster must dig deep. His shoulder ploughs too deeply into the water, causing enormous resistance
Popov's stroke allows for maximum follow-through
Because Foster's stroke brings him further out of the water his follow-through is curtailed

School to master golden silence

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE long silence was unbearable, like the eternal wait for the gun as athletes hold the set position. Worse, in fact. For Marlon Devonish, the European junior 200 metres champion, it was "twice as bad" as the wait to get going in the European final.

In 15 seconds that captured part of the essence of the latest innovation in British athletics, Devonish fought with his nerves before coming up with an answer to a question directed at him at his first press conference. There may be a master at school to teach the first steps in track and field, and a coach at the local club to develop the young athlete into a champion, but, when the moment comes to deal with the media, British athletes are rarely prepared.

Carl Lewis and Leroy Burrell studied communications, Michael Johnson marketing — all in the United States — but, although exceptions such as Jonathan Edwards and Paula Radcliffe have taken to it naturally, Great Britain's athletes are generally way behind Americans in expressing themselves, lacking any formal training.

British Athletic Federation (BAF) courses might have been the answer, but Mark Richardson, the European Cup 400 metres champion, is tired of waiting.

The Mark Richardson School of Sprinting was launched yesterday, backed by enough money from Nike to allow it a three-year plan. It is not a school in the bricks and mortar sense, rather one that meets on the field every so often. "Scholarships" will be awarded to leading juniors, who, among other things, will be instructed in handling "the pressure of the media".

Another benefit will be help in the transition from junior to senior ranks. Many juniors fail to adapt, the best recent example being Darren Campbell. "I am used to winning and I find losing hard to accept," Campbell said in his first senior year, having been world No 2 junior sprinter the summer before.

The school will host events to promote athletics near its base in Eton. "Too many potential track and field stars are being lost to team sports," Richardson said. His school will use the new £5 million track facility at Eton College when it is completed, probably next year.

Richardson admits that, while his project will serve athletics, it will also "help to raise my profile and market me". The Nike support is an extension of Richardson's personal contract and Devonish, 19, was present yesterday as a newly-contracted athlete.

Richardson, 23, is among Britain's best hopes for an Olympic medal, but training does not fill the day. "I want to use my spare time in a proactive fashion and I feel it is vital that athletes of my calibre feed back into the community," he said.

Devonish said that, without his new backing, he may have disappeared from the sport. For 15 seconds yesterday, he probably wished he had.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Atlanta 105 Houston 96; Miami 96 San Antonio 89; Vancouver 100 Milwaukee 92.

CRICKET

Second Test match

New Zealand v Zimbabwe

AUCKLAND (fourth day of five): Zimbabwe, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 327 runs behind new Zealand

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 251 (S P Fleming 84)

Second Innings

C M Spearman c Carlisle b Streak 112
R G Twose c and b Streak 94
S P Fleming c Wishart b Streak 3
A C Parore not out 76
N J Astle c A Flower b Brandes 13
C L Cairns b Streak 120
*†L K Germon not out 1
Extras (b 6, lb 15, nb 1) 22
Total (5 wkts dec) 441

D N Patel, G R Larsen, R J Kennedy, G I Allott

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-214, 2-217, 3-221, 4-261, 5-427.

BOWLING: Streak 30-7-110-4, Brandes 13-2-41-1; B Strang 27-8-64-0; Whittall 13-4-40-0; P Strang 45-7-142-0; Campbell 2-0-3-0. G Flower 5-0-20-0

ZIMBABWE: First Innings 326 (D L Houghton 104 not out)

Second Innings

G W Flower not out 22
S V Carlisle not out 14
Extras (lb 1, nb 2) 3
Total (no wkt) 39

*†A Flower, A D R Campbell, D L Houghton, G J Whittall, P A Strang, H H Streak, C B Wishart, E A Brandes and B C Strang to bat.

BOWLING: Allott 3-1-3-0; Cairns 5-1-11-0; Kennedy 7-1-13-0, Patel 4-0-11-0.

HARARE: Under-19 international (first day of four): Zimbabwe 47 (P Hutchison 5-11); England 120-4 (A Morris 51).

FOOTBALL

Monday's late results

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: West Ham United 0 Manchester United 1

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Purfleet v Walton and Hersham. Second division: Croydon 1 Collier R 3.

FA TROPHY: First round replay: Guiseley 2 Stafford 1, Hyde United 0 Marine 0 (aet).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Millwall 0 Chelsea 0; Swindon 3 Bristol Rovers 1, Tottenham 0 Arsenal 1.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Newcastle 2 Birmingham City 5; Wolverhampton 1 West Bromwich 1.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Clitheroe v Chadderton.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Fuji Film Trophy: Fifth round: West Bromwich 3 Middlesbrough 3 (aet). FA Premier League under-16 Trophy: Devon 5 Cornwall 3

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Tampa Bay 4 Montreal 1; NY Rangers 3 Los Angeles 1; Chicago 7 Ottawa 3; Philadelphia 1 Florida 1 (OT); Pittsburgh 7 Boston 6 (OT), Colorado 4 NY Islanders 3, Dallas 6 Vancouver 4.

ICE SKATING

SOFIA: European championships: Ice dance (compulsory programme): 1, O Gritschuk and E Platov (Russ) 0.4pts; 2, A Krylova and O Ovsiannikov (Russ) 0.8; 3, M Anissina and G Peizerat (Fr) 1.2; 11, M Humphreys and P Askew (GB) 4.4

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Peel Hunt British Over-40s championship: Singles: Final: J Prenn bt W Boone 3-15, 15-9, 15-8, 17-14. Doubles: Final: W Boone and V Cazalet bt J Prenn and C Hue Williams 15-7, 7-15, 15-5, 15-4.

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: Bristol 23 New South Wales 34.

SNOOKER

BLACKPOOL: World championship: Eighth qualifying round (England unless stated): P Davies (Wales) bt C Thornburn (Can) 10-3; J Michie bt Jones 10-4, N Dyson bt M Johnston-Allen 10-4; T Chappel (Wales) bt S O'Connor (Ire) 10-8; D Henry (Scot) bt N Noppachorn (Thai) 10-6, M King bt J Read 10-9; W Jones (Wales) bt A Cairns 10-7; N Terry bt S Judd 10-9; S Murphy (Ire) bt D McLellan (Scot) 10-8; S Lee bt M O'Neill (N Ire) 10-7, C Small (Scot) bt P Lines 10-7, F O'Brien (Ire) bt J Woodman 10-7; I McCulloch bt N Gilbert 10-8; J Prince (N Ire) bt C Scanlon 10-4; D Finbow bt K Payne 10-9; N Walker bt B Snaddon (Scot) 10-9.

SQUASH

EXERCERE CUP: Quarter-finals: Broxbourne 0 Cannons Club 3 (J Wellings lost to P Nicol 13-15, 10-15, 10-15, P Gunter lost to T Hands 14-15, 8-15, 13-15, S Handley lost to J Bonetal 11-15, 13-15, 7-15), ICL Lion Hearts 3 Keyline Barnham Broom 0 (D Harris bt D Campion 11-15, 15-9, 15-5, 15-5, C Walker bt M Cowe 15-10, 13-15, 15-11, 15-4; M Chaloner bt B Ball 6-15, 15-12, 15-8, 15-11); Jim Hall Sports Northern 3 Ellis Stockbrokers Lingfield 0 (D Ryan bt S Meads 10-15, 15-12, 15-8, 12-15, 15-9; J Nicolle bt A Kirkland 12-15, 15-9, 15-13, 15-9, P Johnson bt T Garner 15-10, 15-10 15-10). Ogmore Valley Dragons 3 Phillips Windows Chichester 0 (C Van der Wath bt N Dugan 15-8, 15-14, 15-2; D Evans bt P Genever 15-9, 15-7, 15-12, R Forde bt M Heather 15-9, 7-15, 9-15, 15-13, 15-10)

TENNIS

MELBOURNE: Australian Open: Men: Singles: Quarter-finals: M Chang (US) bt M Tillstrom (Swe) 6-0, 6-2, 6-4, J Courier (US) leads A Agassi (US) 5-4. Doubles: Quarter-finals: P Galbraith (US) and A Olhovskiy (Russ) bt S Draper and J Stoltenberg (Aus) 7-6, 6-2, 6-4; S Edberg (Swe) and P Korda (Cz) bt R Leach and S Melville (US) 6-4, 6-4, 7-5. S Lareau (Can) and A O'Brien (US) bt M Damm (Cz) and J Grabb (US) 7-5, 6-2, 6-4. G Forget (Fr) and J Hlasek (Switz) bt M Knowles (Bah) and D Nestor (Can) 6-4, 1-6, 6-3, 6-3. Women: Singles: Quarter-finals: M Seles (US) bt I Majoli (Cro) 6-1, 6-2. C Rubin (US) bt A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) 6-4, 2-6, 16-14. Doubles: Quarter-finals: N Arendt (US) and M Bollegraf (Holl) bt Y Basuki (Indo) and C Vis (Holl) 6-1, 2-6, 7-5. M McGrath (US) and L Neiland (Lat) bt E Makarova and E Maniokova (Russ) 6-0, 3-6, 6-3; L Davenport and M J Fernandez (US) bt L Raymond (US) and G Sabatini (Arg) 6-3, 4-6, 6-2. Mixed doubles: Second round: M Woodforde (Aus) and L Neiland (Lat) bt T Kronemann (US) and M Bollegraf (Holl) 4-6, 6-2, 6-6, M Tebbutt (Aus) and J Halard-Decugis (Fr) bt M Keil and L McNeil (US) 6-4, 6-4. G van Emburgh (US) and I Spirlea (Rom) bt A O'Brien and M J Fernandez (US) 6-3, 6-2. Quarter-finals: J-L de Jager (SA) and J Hetherington (Can) bt E Ferreira (SA) and H Sukova (Cz) 6-2, 1-6, 6-4. Boys: Singles: Second round: J Gould (Aus) bt J Trotman (GB) 6-4, 3-6, 6-2. Doubles: First round: M Lee and J Trotman (GB) bt D Currall and S-A Zaman (Aus) 6-2, 5-7, 7-5

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

International match
Italy v Wales
(in Terni)

Coca-Cola Cup
Quarter-final replay
Birmingham v Norwich (7.45)

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division
Sunderland v Grimsby (7.45)

Bell's Scottish League
First division
Hamilton v St Mirren

Second division
Stirling v Clyde

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern division: Havant v Clevedon

ICIS LEAGUE: Second division: Witham v Wivenhoe. Third division: Harlow v Northwood.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Bradford Pk Ave v Farsley Celtic.

CARLSBERG VASE: Fourth round, second replay: Selby v Trafford.

FA UMBRO TROPHY: First round replay: Gateshead v Kidderminster (7.45).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brighton v Wimbledon (2.0); Crystal Palace v Luton; Bristol City v Charlton, West Ham v Ipswich (at Dagenham & Redbridge FC, 2.0). Second division: Bath v Newport AFC Res. Birmingham Res v Cheltenham (7.0). Bournemouth v Swansea (2.0). Torquay v Plymouth (7.0).

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Blackburn v Sheffield Wednesday (at Preston FC, 7.0); Bolton v Manchester United (7.0); Leeds v Tranmere (at Halifax FC, 7.0); Oldham v Stoke (at Stalybridge FC, 7.0). Second division: Barnsley v Hull (7.0); Blackpool v Mansfield (7.0). Huddersfield v Preston (7.3). Leicester v York (7.0); Manchester City v Rotherham (6.45). Middlesbrough v Coventry (at Hartlepool FC, 7.0); Port Vale v Burnley (7.0). Postponed: Aston Villa v Sunderland.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Ebbw Vale (8.0); Conwy v Porthmadog (7.45).

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Shamrock v Dundalk.

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash v Cranleigh.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Dunstable v Brache Sparta. O'Brien/McKenzie Butchers Cup: Third round, first leg: Hatfield v Langford

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Prescot v Glossop North End.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Stowmarket v Wisbech.

SCHOOLS MATCHES (Kick-off 2.0 unless stated): FA Premier League under-16 Trophy: Lancashire v Cheshire (Bamber Bridge, 7.0); Norfolk v Cambridgeshire (Norwich United, 7.0). English Snickers Under-19 Trophy: Blackburn College v Archbishop Beck RC Liverpool (Darwen FC). Priestley SFC, Warrington v Winstanley College, Wigan. Eton College v John Hampden, Bucks (2.15); Saundwell College, Avon v Swindon College, Wilts; Yeovil College v Queen Elizabeth's, Dorset.

RUGBY UNION

Tour match
Newport v New South Wales (7.0)

Representative match
Oxford University v RAF (3.0)

Club matches
Bridgend v South Wales Police (7.15). C Moseley v Loughborough Students (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Welsh national singles finals (Llanelli).

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Newcastle v Manchester (8.0). Leicester v Thames Valley (8.0). National Cup: Quarter-finals: Crystal Palace v Leopards (8.0). Hemel v Birmingham (8.0).

HOCKEY: British Aerospace women's under-18 championship: Southern territorial final (Bisham Abbey).

SWIMMING: World Cup meeting (Sheffield).

TABLE TENNIS: Women's European club Cup: BFL Grove v Dulmen (Market Drayton).

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Obergurgl	35	75	fair	varied	fair	cloud	1	8/1
(Wind-blown snow on some exposed pistes; all lifts open)								
St Anton	25	120	hard	varied	icy	fair	-4	8/1
(Pistes well-maintained and many skiing well)								
Schladming	20	40	fair	crust	art	fine	0	4/1
(Warmer weather softening pistes; good skiing)								
Söll	10	50	fair	heavy	closed	cloud	1	8/1
(Some upper runs in good shape; snow machines in use)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	75	220	good	varied	good	snow	-1	23/1
(High winds closing some lifts, tricky conditions)								
La Tania	50	60	good	varied	closed	cloud	1	22/1
(Good skiing with new snow on hard base)								
Tignes	75	120	good	heavy	good	snow	-1	23/1
(Fresh snow softening all pistes; good skiing)								
Val d'Isère	60	135	good	varied	fair	snow	1	23/1
(Good skiing in sheltered areas; snowing, high winds)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	110	300	good	powder	good	snow	-1	23/1
(Superb powder skiing on and off piste)								
SWITZERLAND								
Arosa	30	50	good	varied	icy	cloud	4	8/1
(Strong winds closing lifts at altitude)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Dealer West North-South game rubber bridge

♠K J 3
♥K 7
♦A K J 4
♣A K J 7

West:
♠10 4 2
♥A Q J 10 5 4
♦Q 9 8
♣9

East:
♠9 8 7 6 5
♥9 8 6
♦7
♣Q 8 6 3

South:
♠A Q
♥3 2
♦10 6 5 3 2
♣10 5 4 2

W	N	E	S
3 H	Dble	Pass	4 D
Pass	5 D	All Pass	

Contract: Five Diamonds by South. Lead: ace of hearts

West leads ace and another heart, and after winning the king declarer tries ace and king of diamonds; East throws a spade on the second diamond. Declarer has a trump loser and a possible club loser. How should he proceed?

Who is more likely to have the queen of clubs? It is East, for this reason. West has shown up with at least six hearts (he opened Three Hearts) and three diamonds, so he has at most four black cards. By the same reasoning, East has at least nine black cards, which makes any specific black card a 9/4 favourite to be with East.

In that case, what can the declarer do about it? Here knowledge of end-play comes in. If South can strip West of his black cards, South can then exit with the third round of diamonds and force East to give him a ruff and discard.

There remains a final precaution. The problem with simply playing off the top clubs is that West may ruff the second one and exit with a spade. So the correct sequence of play is: cash a top club at trick five, cross to the ace of spades and lead towards the clubs. It does West no good to ruff, so he discards, and now declarer wins in dummy and plays off the top spades before exiting with a diamond. This line of play succeeds whenever East has the queen of clubs. It only fails when West started with Qxx of clubs.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TIN FISH
a. A Lifeguard
b. A submarine
c. A torpedo

CASTILLON
a. A Spanish man-at-arms
b. A fortress commander
c. A battle

FYRD
a. Every third soldier
b. A levée en masse
c. A personal royal following

CADRE
a. A corpse
b. A skeleton
c. An officer's servant

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Last-round tactics

Last-round games can play a crucial role in determining the eventual prize line-up in chess tournaments. With the final placings in sight, it is often nerves which play the decisive role, usurping the need for perfect strategy.

In the tournament in Gausdal, Norway, which finished last week, the Australian Grandmaster Ian Rogers had to win this last-round game in order to take undivided first prize.

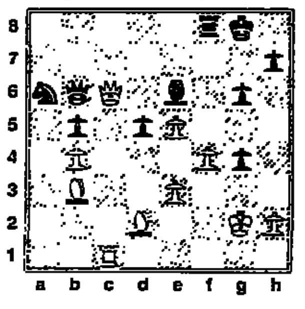
After an obscure pawn sacrifice, Rogers offered a draw, but, overcome by ambition, his opponent refused, only to succumb to the last-round tension and allow Rogers a winning breakthrough.

White: Ian Rogers
Black: Eckhart Schmittdiel
Gausdal, January 1996

Dutch Defence

1	d4	f5
2	c4	Nf6
3	Nc3	e6
4	e3	c6
5	Bd3	d5
6	Nge2	Bd6
7	f3	0-0
8	Bd2	Na6
9	a3	Nc7
10	0-0	e5
11	c5	Be7
12	dxe5	Nd7
13	f4	Nxc5
14	Bc2	a5
15	g4	fxg4
16	Nd4	Qe8
17	Qe1	g6
18	Nce2	b6
19	b4	axb4
20	axb4	Rxa1
21	Qxa1	N5e6
22	Qa7	b5
23	Bb3	Nxd4
24	Nxd4	Na6
25	Nxc6	Qxc6
26	Qxe7	Be6
27	Rc1	Qb6
28	Kg2	Rf7
29	Qe8+	Rf8
30	Qc6	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Simultaneous record

The Swedish Grandmaster Ulf Andersson has broken the record for playing a large number of opponents at one and the same time.

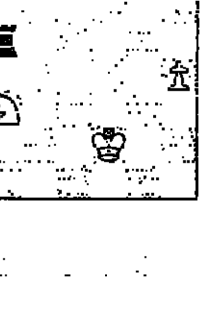
Earlier this month, at Alvsjo near Stockholm, Andersson gave a simultaneous display against 311 opponents. After 15 hours and 23 minutes he had set a new world record, winning 269 games, drawing 40 and losing only two.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to move. This position is from the game Hodgson - Plaskett, Hastings Premier 1986. Although this is a simplified endgame position, Black found a neat tactical sequence to force victory. What did he play?



Solution on page 46

Stone investigation puts boxing on the ropes

MIDWEEK VIEW

SIMON BARNES

The law takes a firm, paternal stance on potentially lethal activities such as smoking, driving and drinking. All three can not only kill you: they can injure you, they can impair the quality of the rest of your life. Therefore, for all these, the law sets a minimum age of 16, 17, 18.

This is not the case in boxing. New research shows that boxing, like smoking, can have debilitating effects *from the day you take it up*. These facts must be looked at with the utmost seriousness. The facts come from the examination at the Royal London Hospital of the brain of a 23-year-old boxer who died of violent injuries caused in the ring. Although the hospital could not name the boxer because of patient confidentiality, the fact is that Bradley Stone, 23, died in the Royal London in April 1994.

The point here is that there are two types of injury that can be caused by boxing. The first is the acute concussive injury during a fight that leads to bleeding in the head. That is what causes the dramatic rushes to hospital, the headline-making deaths.

The second type of injury is subtle and cumulative, a slow accumulation of damage, cell by cell, that may take years to produce any obvious effect. It makes itself clear as a progressive failure of memory very similar to Alzheimer's disease. For which, of course, there is no treatment.

The truly disturbing fact is that Stone suffered from *both*. He died from a massive brain haemorrhage, two days after his last fight. But a team of neuropathologists at the Royal London, led by Dr Jennian Geddes, discovered that Stone's brain also contained structural abnormalities of the kind found in those who suffer from Alzheimer's — and also in *old* boxers.

The punch-drunk syndrome, or *dementia pugilisitica*, is suffered by old boxers and is a long-established neurological fact. The breakthrough here was the *detailed* investigation of the brain, looking beyond the immediate and dramatic cause of death.

"We found signs of long-standing brain damage and, because there was no evidence of any other disease when he was alive, we have to assume it was caused by repeated blows to the head," Geddes told the *New Scientist* magazine.

Stone had been boxing from the age of 11. He had fought as a professional for four years. There was nothing, bar a little absent-mindedness, to suggest that he suffered from any damage to the brain. But the damage was there all along, subtle and cumulative.

A statement from the Royal London Hospital said: "The changes seen in brain cells in *dementia pugilisitica* are called 'neurofibrillary tangles'. Their presence is always abnormal and indicates that there has been damage to nerve-cells. They are not found in young adults (and were not present in 21 brains of non-boxers which were also studied as controls). As neurofibrillary tangles can only be seen under a microscope, they would not have been detectable by the brain scans that are routinely used to monitor boxers."

In other words, you have to be dead before they can be discovered. The British Boxing Board of Control has long claimed that punch-drunk syndrome is a thing of the past: better controls and shorter fights see to that. The Stone case puts that argument right out of court.

The *New Scientist* said in an editorial: "The pro-boxing world cannot remain sceptical. They have persistently asked for scientific evidence to prove that boxing causes brain damage even when the sport is played under tight controls. They have it."

So far, I have stuck to facts and the opinions of others. My own abolitionist stance on boxing has been echoing down these columns for some years, after all. I do not want these latest and terrifying facts to be written off here as another bit of opinion-mongering.

My own belief, that boxing should be banned, is normally countered by the consenting adults argument. This is a good argument, but it is condemned to the shredder by the Stone case. Stone may have been a consenting adult when he died, but he was a child when he set out on the road that led to the subtle and cumulative injuries he also received. It is the job of the law to protect children from activities that will ruin their adult lives.

I would like to congratulate the researchers at the Royal London for a piece of important work, for that eternally important scientific matter of looking beyond the obvious. Their research clearly has stunning implications for boxing. Every argument boxing puts up for its continuation now lies in tatters.

Britain seek high-tech aid to qualify

Whitaker projects modern image of Olympic pursuit

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE IN BARCELONA

ANYONE still regarding hockey as one of the last bastions of gung-ho amateurism has clearly not inspected the nerve-centre of the Great Britain team at present involved in an intense struggle for Olympic qualification here. Room 407 of the team hotel looks more like the bowels of a BBC outside-broadcasting unit than a bedroom as two coaches dissect the team's latest performance on a double-monitor editing suite and the head coach, David Whitaker, surveys an 8ft high projection screen pinned to the far wall.

Nothing is left to chance in hockey's new high-tech age. The gadgetry includes a video camera with on-sight replay facility (£5,000), £2,000 worth of portable projector, a tripod (£500) and batteries which set the cash-strapped Hockey Association (HA) back £250 a match. The editing box cost another £3,000. The team even has its own video operator. During games, Whitaker will be fed information on short-corner routines and tactical nuances by radio, much like an American football coach, while the players talk in unchappish lingo about "running patterns of play".

How much difference this appliance of science makes, not even Whitaker would care to quantify. The gap between the leading eight teams in the world is so minute, no one can afford to miss a trick. And if that means the treasurer of the HA poking his nose around the door to see where all his money has gone, so be it. The international game is as much a battle of wits off the field as on it. *Information is power* and players like to know they have the technology on their side, too. Before the 4-1 victory over Belorussia the coaching team analysed every routine their opponents had used in this and the last tournament.

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	2	1	0	7	1	5
Holland	3	2	0	1	10	6	4
Great Britain	3	1	2	0	8	5	4
India	3	1	2	0	7	4	4
Malaysia	3	2	0	1	5	5	4
Canada	3	1	1	1	5	8	3
Belgium	3	0	0	3	3	9	0
Belorussia	3	0	0	3	2	9	0

Top five qualify for Olympics

TODAY'S MATCHES: Canada v Malaysia; India v Belorussia, Spain v Britain; Belgium v Holland

Whitaker is too shrewd to be hooked by the wizardry. He was, after all, coach to the 1988 Olympic champions, whose debt to electronics extended no further than a VHS tape and the nearest television screen, and who won gold through such unprogrammable virtues as resilience and flair. Nor does he have to search far for a morality tale to highlight the dangers of stifling free thought.

One of his assistant coaches, James Duthie, still remembers a short corner in the semi-final of the 1984 Games in Los Angeles. He followed instructions by hitting the ball high. The 'keeper palmed it away, Britain lost 1-0 and Duthie still *wonders what might have been* if he had followed his instinct to shoot low.

Julian Halls, who missed Britain's first three matches with a back injury, will not play against Spain today and is doubtful for the remaining games. "He is fairly mobile when running but, when it comes to hitting the ball, there are problems," David Whittle, the manager, said.

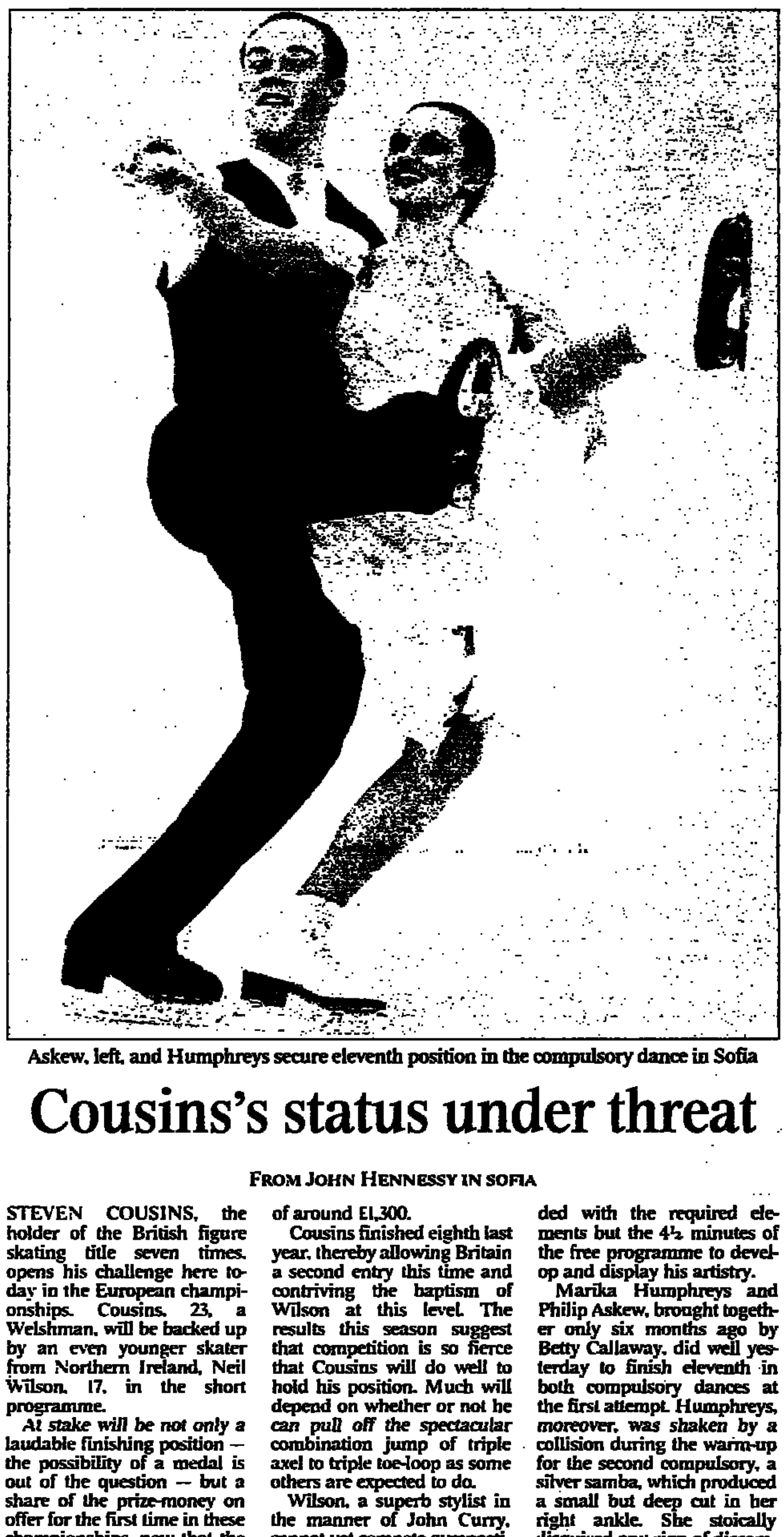
The video also isolates players who are willing to accept their mistakes and learn from them. Some can be suspicious of having their inadequacies magnified and plastered over a hotel wall. "You look at mistakes not to beat up on players," Whitaker said. "But to make them go forward. It's a matter of building up their trust. Some are receptive to the feedback, some are still stuck in a fear of 'does that mean I won't play again?'."

It is a fine balance between promoting fear and eradicating stupidity. While consciously resisting the temptation to hark back to past glories, Whitaker knows that this team has yet to develop the independence of spirit so vital to the success of his 1988 side. One of his favourite sayings is: "Those who look to the bench should be on the bench."

Richard Dodds, captain of the 1988 team, now chairman of the Great Britain men's Olympic Hockey Committee, has noticed it, too. It was all he could do to stop himself from rushing onto the pitch when Belorussia scored on Monday. "That's when experience counts, someone to say: 'Look, we're still 3-1 up.' The goal might be somebody's fault but it doesn't matter. Let's get on with it."

Whether that sort of ringcraft can be taught by video may only be discovered in Atlanta in July when the team will be more battle-hardened anyway after a ferocious schedule of preparation matches. "The players seem to want more fed to them. It's not just in hockey, it's life in general," Dodds said. "But the one thing that makes characters is individuality. The guys I call great players were those who would put their necks on the line and do something out *of the ordinary*."

It is reassuring, then, to know that some old-fashioned coaching methods remain. At one point in their last match, Whitaker was so cross with his team he rejected all advice from his video men. "I thought: 'Sod it, you've got yourselves into this mess, you get yourselves out of it' and I let the team get on with it." That will be music to the ears of the treasurer, anyway.



Askew, left, and Humphreys secure eleventh position in the compulsory dance in Sofia

Cousins's status under threat

FROM JOHN HENNESSY IN SOFIA

STEVEN COUSINS, the holder of the British figure skating title seven times, opens his challenge here today in the European championships. Cousins, 23, a Welshman, will be backed up by an even younger skater from Northern Ireland, Neil Wilson, 17, in the short programme.

At stake will be not only a laudable finishing position — the possibility of a medal is out of the question — but a share of the prize-money on offer for the first time in these championships, now that the word amateur has been expunged from the skating vocabulary. The winner will receive about £20,000, but even the last of the 24 who qualify for tomorrow's final will receive a modest reward of around £1,300.

Cousins finished eighth last year, thereby allowing Britain a second entry this time and contriving the baptism of Wilson at this level. The results this season suggest that competition is so fierce that Cousins will do well to hold his position. Much will depend on whether or not he *can pull off the spectacular* combination jump of triple axel to triple toe-loop as some others are expected to do.

Wilson, a superb stylist in the manner of John Curry, cannot yet compete gymnastically with the leaders and his combination of triple flip to double toe-loop, plus the absence of a triple lutz, will place him at a severe disadvantage in this particular exercise. He needs not 2¾ minutes studded with the required elements but the 4½ minutes of the free programme to develop and display his artistry.

Marika Humphreys and Philip Askew, brought together only six months ago by Betty Callaway, did well yesterday to finish eleventh in both compulsory dances at the first attempt. Humphreys, *moreover, was shaken by a* collision during the warm-up for the second compulsory, a silver samba, which produced a small but deep cut in her right ankle. She stoically disguised any sign of discomfort during the dance.

Both dances were won by the world champions, Oksana Gritschuk and Evgeny Platov, of Russia.

Results, page 45

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

TIN FISH

(c) A fairly obvious jocular metaphor for the unfunny torpedo, slang from WWI when the tin fish was introduced. Cf. *tin hat* for the soldier's helmet, as Germans were called Jerries because their tin hats looked like the bedroom utensil that was more common when lavatories were rare and/or at the bottom of the garden. In naval *Jackspeak*, the older expression *tin man* describes someone trying to dominate any discussion without having the necessary knowledge, and therefore in danger of being knocked down like the *tin men* targets on a rifle range.

CASTILLON

(c) The decisive battle of the Hundred Years War, 17 July, 1453. The English longbow was finally overcome by French artillery. Instead of their usual defensive formation against the French cavalry, the English were forced into an injudicious attack. Near the place now called *Castillon la Bataille* there is a memorial plaque to John Talbot, the English commander, who fought and died at the age of 75 without wearing his "harness", as he had foolishly sworn not to do, and was in consequence a soft target.

FYRD

(b) The call-up for military service of all the Anglo-Saxon farmers who were required to follow their king into such battles as Stamford Bridge (not Chelsea) and Hastings (Senlac). Trevelyan, *History of England*: "The King's personal following of thegns was not large. The fyrd could only be called out for a few weeks, and the Saxon farmers had no desire to colonise other Saxon kingdoms."

CADRE

(b) A skeleton corps that consists of key personnel, mostly officers, sergeants and technicians, a military nucleus capable of rapid expansion. French, from the Russian for a cell of trained communist leaders. The word is shifting to mean a key individual, apparatchik or supporter.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... Bd4+ and when the king moves, Black continues 2 ... Rxc3, winning a piece due to the threat against the white rook on b6

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Smith seeks to come top of the class

Edward Gorman previews this week's competition for the final Olympic sailing squad places

LAWRIE SMITH, Britain's most successful yachtsman, faces one of the stiffest challenges of his career this week as he fights for Olympic qualification in the Star class against his old rival, Glyn Charles. The Coral Reef Yacht Club here in Miami is the setting for what may turn into a grudge match.

Smith, bronze medal-winner in the 1992 Olympics in the Soling class, has beaten Charles in Olympic trials twice before. Charles, a former top Laser sailor and skipper of the Mumm 36 in Britain's Admiral's Cup campaign last summer, will be under pressure from the outset.

"One of the reasons Glyn went into the Stars this time was because he thought he had a good shot," an observer said yesterday. "Then Lawrie decided to come, which has upset the applecart a bit. Glyn and Lawrie have had a battle for qualification for the past three Games. There is needle between them."

The Star is the last class in the British Olympic squad to complete qualification. It will be decided over 14 races, eight of which will be sailed this week in a fleet of 25, with the remaining six, in a much larger fleet, at the Bacardi Cup here in March.

While trials in all the other classes were completed in Weymouth last August, the Royal Yachting Association decided to delay the Stars to enable more teams to prepare. In addition to Smith, sailing with Chris Mason, and Charles, with George Skuodas, the five boats in the trials here include David Howlett, with Phil Lawrence.

Howlett has years of experience in the class and went to the Olympics in Barcelona in a Star, where he was lying third after three races, before fading in the second half of the regatta.

The Star, 23ft long with a huge mast carrying a large mainsail but a tiny non-overlapping jib, is a notoriously difficult boat to sail well. It goes beautifully in very light winds but becomes overpowered in anything stronger. The key is to master the complexities of a sophisticated and highly adjustable rig to generate straight-line speed.

Although never a popular boat in Britain, there is excellent past form in the class. Mike McKintyre and Bryn Vaile won a gold medal at the 1988 Olympics in South Korea.

Smith has had only a short apprenticeship in the class. It began at Spa, in Holland, in May last year, where he won two races. He followed that with ninth place at the European championships and then an indifferent world championships. His proven ability at tweaking a technical rig to squeeze extra speed makes him favourite to qualify.

One pointer to the outcome of this latest contest came last week, when both Smith and Charles raced at the St Petersburg Sport Regatta, also in Florida. Smith finished third, one place ahead of his rival.

Most of the rest of the British team were there, including Ben Ainslie, 18, who won the Laser fleet contest by more than 50 points. Among those trailing in his wake was Robert Scheidt, of Brazil, the world champion.

Jim Saltonstall, the Olympic team coach, was delighted. "It was a very good confidence-building result," he said. "Ben has now proven to himself he can beat these guys."

Smith: proven ability

RADIO CHOICE

Age-old rock is updated

Hearts and Hands and Voices. *Radio 2, 9.00pm.*

The fourth of Barbara Dickson's programmes about hymns through the ages is a veritable ear and heart-opener. She brings religious songs right up to date. I cannot imagine anybody coming up with a more effective way of measuring the vast distance the hymn has travelled since Herbert Howells's death in 1983, never mind the changes made since the great explosion of hymnology in the Victorian era. As Dickson says: "It *is* possible to write great new hymns in our time." In the 20th century, many hymn tunes and rhythms are recognisably those of the quickstep and even the beguine, and the evangelical movement has produced some vocal riches. And yet *Rock of Ages* refuses to crumble in our affections.

Concerto. *Classic FM, 2.00pm.*

"Hold on a minute," you might find yourself saying after listening to the first few minutes of this recording "surely that's Chopin! But they *said it was someone called Field." The reason they* said it was Field is because it *is*. Dublin-born John Field was Chopin's contemporary. It is generally agreed that he invented the nocturne, which Chopin went on to perfect and popularise. As composer and performer, Chopin admitted his name was often coupled with Field's. I hope all this has given you an appetite to hear John O'Connor playing not Chopin's but Field's Piano Concerto No 1 with the New Irish Chamber Orchestra this afternoon.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo **4.00am** Clive Warren **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo, incl the Golden Hour **12.00** Lisa I'Anson, incl at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat and at **1.15** the Net **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier, incl at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat, **6.15** the Net **7.00** Evening Session **9.00** Radio Tip Top with Kid Tempo and the Ginger Prince, featuring The Guys Now Dancers **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **Midnight** Wendy Lloyd, incl at **12.15am** The Net

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce, incl at **10.00** Pick of the Hits **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Jim Lloyd with Folk on 2 **8.00** Peggy Seeger (3/5) **8.30** Rock Island Line **9.00** Hearts and Hands and Voices. See Choice **9.30** Nigel Ogden **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00-6.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **8.35** The Magazine, incl **10.35** Euronews **11.30** Natural History **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl at **12.34pm** Moneycheck; and at **1.15** Entertainment News **2.05** Ruscoe on Five, incl at **3.45** Entertainment News **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Trevor Brooking's Football Night **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra **12.05am** After Hours **2.05** Up All Night, with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Scott Chisholm and Lowri Turner **7.00** Sean Bolger **9.00** Moz Dee **10.00** James Whale **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. **5.00am** Newsday **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** News **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf: *Frenchman's Creek* **7.30** Discovery **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Thirty-Minute Drama: *The Vacillations of Poppy Carew* **8.45** How to Listen **9.00** News in German **9.15** World of Music **9.45** Sport **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf: *Frenchman's Creek* **11.00** News **11.30** Meridian **12.00** News **12.05pm** Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Composer of the Month **1.00** News **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Megamix **3.00** News in German **3.15** The Greenfield Collection **4.00** News **4.15** World Today **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe **5.30** Business Report **5.45** Sports **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** News in German **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Multitrack X-Press **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Western Music **10.00** News **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sport **11.00** News **11.10** Pop Short **11.15** Sport **11.45** From Our Own Correspondent **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** How to Listen **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** News **1.10** Press Review **1.15** New Ideas **1.35** The Planets **1.45** Country Style **2.00** News **2.30** Sport **3.00** News **3.15** Sport **3.30** Assignment **4.00** News **4.30** Europe

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto. See Choice **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata: Brahms **7.00** Gardening Forum (r) **8.00** Evening Concert **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyte **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00-6.00am** Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Strauss (Metamorphosen); Scarlatti (Sonata in B minor); Tchaikovsky (Overture, 1812); Wagner (Overture, Rienzi); Shostakovich (Cello Concerto No 1)

9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Scarlatti (Sonata in D); Mozart (Flute Concerto in G); Schumann (5 Lieder, Op 40); Nielsen (Maskarade, excerpts)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Including Grainger (Spoon River); Britten (Suite on English Folk Tunes, A Time There Was); **10.25** *Artist of the Week*: Benny Goodman, clarinet. Bartók (Contrasts); **10.45** Kodály (Suite, Hary Janos); Grainger (Two folk song arrangements: The Nightingale and the Two Sisters; Molly on the Shore) Falla (El Amor Brujo)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Prokofiev (In Your Brightness: Cantata for the 20th Anniversary of the October Revolution, movements 1-7 and 8-10)

1.00pm Birmingham Lunchtime Concert live from Pebble Mill. Ulrich Heinen, cello, Frank Wibaut, piano. Beethoven (Cello Sonata in D); Prokofiev (Cello Sonata in C, Op 119)

2.00 Schools. Together **2.20** Time and Tune **2.40** Drama Workshop

3.00 Midweek Choice. Handel (Eternal source of light divine, Birthday Ode for Queen Anne); Vaughan Williams (Oboe Concerto)

4.00 Choral Evensong, live from the Chapel of New College, Oxford

5.00 The Music Machine: Sonata. Tommy Pearson continues to explore musical forms

5.15 In Tune, with Jeremy Nicholas

7.30 City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Mark Elder, with Olga Romenko, soprano, Emil Ivanov, tenor, Phillip Joll, baritone, Anne-Marie Owens, mezzo, Donald Adams, bass, John Hudson and Barry Banks, tenors, and students of the opera class of the Welsh College of Music and Drama. Delius (Paris, the Song of a Great City); Puccini (Il tabarro; Il trittico)

8.55 The Maxton Festival. A return to the spoof arts festival from Maxton Market Garden. With David Horovitch, Sheila Steafel and Tyler Butterworth

9.15 A Ligeti Premiere. Michael Collins, clarinet, Tabea Zimmermann, viola, and Imogen Cooper, piano, perform Kurtag (Hommage à R.Sch); Schumann (Märchenerzählung, Op 132); Ligeti (Sonata for solo viola); Schumann (Phantasiestücke, Op 73); Mozart (Clarinet Trio in E flat)

10.45 Night Waves Lisa Jardine asks why women write as men and vice versa; and reports on Pedro Almodovar's new film, *The Flower of my Secret*

11.30-12.30am Voices Voices at the Wigmore Hall. Iain Burnside introduces the baritone Sergei Leiferkus and pianist Graham Johnson

1.00-1.50 Night School Verseplay **1.24** Infant History

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) **6.00** News Briefing incl Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today incl **7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **7.25, 8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament

9.00 News 9.05 *Midweek*, with *Times* columnist Libby Purves

10.00-10.30 News; A Good Read (FM only) with Edward Blishen and his guests

10.00 Daily Service (LW only)

10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)

10.30 Woman's Hour introduced by Jenni Murray. Serial. Niamh Cusak reads Mary Morrisey's *Mother of Pearl*

11.30 Gardeners' Question Time. Pippa Greenwood, Nigel Colborn and Geoffrey Smith answer listeners' questions (r)

12.00 News; You and Yours

12.25pm Babblewick Hall. An 18th-century sit-com written by Scott Cherry, starring Nicholas Le Prevost as Fenton Babblewick (5/6) **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; The Monkey House, by Ted Moore. With Carol McGuigan and Graham Martin (3/3)

2.45 Letters from Here and There. Letter from New York with Laura Thompson (4/6)

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Gambaccini reviews Sidney Pollack's remake of *Sabrina*

4.45 Short Story: Head Down by Pippa Gadhill. Read by Catherine Harvey

5.00 PM 5.45 Party Political Broadcast by the Liberal Democrats **5.50** Shipping **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 No Job Too Small (r)

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 Face the Facts with John Waite

7.45 Times Past, Times Future: The Unions. Jeremy Paxman chairs six discussions in which people who have held the nation's top jobs share their experiences and debate both the lessons they learnt and how their successors could change things. With Jack Jones, Frank Chapple, Clive Jenkins, Brenda Dean, Barbara Castle and Cecil Parkinson (2/6)

8.30 Still Lives (2/4) (r)

9.00 Flashpoints. Professor John Durant looks back at the events that sparked off the great scientific ideas of our time (4/4)

9.30 Kaleidoscope 9.59 Weather

10.00 The World Tonight with Isabel Hilton

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel Garcia Márquez. Read by Robert Powell (8/15)

11.00-12.00 Late Night Opening: On Baby Street. Comedy-drama series (3/5)

11.30 Missed Demeanours (FM only) (r)

11.30 Today in Parliament (LW only)

12.00 News incl **12.27am Weather**

12.30 The Late Book: The Drowned World by J.G. Ballard. Read by Nicholas Farrell (3/10)

12.45 Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

مصور من الأصل

Scream in danger of turning into a giggle

REVIEW

Lynne Truss

The story was not particularly grisly, but there was a chilling moment in last night's **Omnibus** (BBC1), reminiscent of the thriller at its best. On the trail of *The Scream*, stolen from Norway's National Gallery, two men drove to a secret destination and found by the side of the road, in the grass, a fragment of *The Scream*'s original frame. They picked it up. Their hearts welled with horror. It was like receiving a finger in the post — only instead of a severed digit, it was a piece of wood like a plank. *The Scream* was in dangerous hands! They must act at once!

Keith Alexander's *Theft of the Century* was too pleasant and ironic a film, however, to maintain such bogus suspense for long. That was its problem. While detectives, middlemen and gallery officials recounted (and willingly recreated) their roles in the investigation of this heinous crime, they did so with "after the event" and "no harm done" stamped clearly on their foreheads. Everyone watching the film knew that the painting was now back on the wall, yelling "Aaargh! I feel so *wobbly*"; and that the guilty men had been convicted. But this was no reason to make the crime and the investigation look somehow unserious. True, it's only a painting, not a human life. But it was really stolen, and it is really worth several million quid.

I suspect a Norway Factor here (ho ho, nothing horrible happens in Norway). I also suspect a Hitler Diaries Factor — a desire to make the story appear ludicrous and farcical — when actually only little bits of it co-operate with that analysis. What will make last night's story famous, however, was a genuinely funny moment told by a jolly cove from Scotland Yard, whose role (as recreated) was to stay in a hotel room, eat plentifully from room service, and worry about what was going on. But he also had this awful moment: having chosen an Oslo hotel for his cleverly prepared set-up, he discovered just before the crucial meeting that the place was overrun with international police wearing tags and bulletproof vests. A police convention was being held in the same hotel. His whole life flashed before his eyes. But in retrospect, perhaps it was no bad thing. Think how this coincidence must have impressed the opposition, if they were at all suspicious. Nobody would plan *this*, they must have thought.

And talking of bad planning, the second instalment of **The House** (BBC2) lived up to the promise of its trailers, with a beleaguered Jeremy Isaacs trying to outface his board for a circumstance sternly described as "catastrophic" and "appallingly incompetent". Somehow a terrible decision had been made — to commission the designer Maria Bjornson for two huge, elaborate productions at once. The resulting logjam caused a big budget overspend, and people were looking pale and strained. Nobody put the blame on the designer, which was nice of them (and probably fair). The only time anyone had a sharp word for her was when two horses were introduced to her finally-completed set of *Katya Kabanova*. "The horses are white! Should they be white?" she exclaimed to a weary Trevor Nunn. He put his hands behind his head and leant back. "I don't care," he replied.

Rather in the way the unfortunate Oslo police convention made Scotland Yard's operation look genuine, this cock-up at the Opera House certainly proves one thing: that nothing was contrived to impress the cameras. Tsk, tsk, nobody would plan *this*. But as always, the backstage horrors were not reflected on the stage — *Katya* looked and sounded wonderful. Bjornson's set was a great Expressionistic whirl of paint — rather like *The Scream* — and the Russian star stood in its vortex singing the Czech for "Aaargh! I feel so *wobbly*" to great effect.

The Sleeping Beauty for the Royal Ballet was another triumph of design, but unfortunately another oversight came to light when the polished floor made the prima ballerina slip and fall over. The producer, Anthony Dowell, watched the dress rehearsal from the stalls, grimacing and holding his head. What cracking good telly this is. I could watch it every night.

On children's television, **Grange Hill** (BBC1) returned for its 19th series, replacing the enjoyable six-part *Demon Headmaster*. A boy called Kevin was taunted by toughs for wearing a namby-pamby anorak; and a boy called Chris turned out to be remarkably good at badminton. Well, this was enough for me; I was hooked. Watching children's television is always excusable, I think, if one can say, "Just looking out for the stars of tomorrow" — which fools nobody but preserves some dignity. *The Demon Headmaster* featured some very good pint-sized actors (Frances Amey as the girl lead was lovely) and also a frightening prefect called Rose (Katy Crawford Kastin) whose proud face and crystal-cut accent mark her as a potential Estella, if *Great Expectations* is made again soon.

Finally, **The Chauffeur's Tale**, a mysterious ten-minute programme about Barbara Cartland's former chauffeur, turned up before *Newsnight* on BBC2 — a colourful, sunny little film, set mainly in the interior of a travelling Rolls-Royce while Perry Como crooned *Magic Moments*. A fake Barbara Cartland sometimes took the passenger seat — face unseen, but identifiable by hair, cerise chiffon and lapdog — and the driver told anecdotes about his former employer, rather uncomfortably. Still, it's not many people who've been upbraided in a fast-moving car. "Alderson, you fool! You've let me come without my eyelashes!" The unfairness of this accusation had evidently never ceased to rankle.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (56618)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (29668960)

9.10 Kilroy (s) (2704521)

10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (6097647) **10.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook** (s) (6958908) **10.30 Good Morning** (s) (53453)

12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (6094989) **12.05pm Pebble Mill** (9225095) **12.50 Regional News** (13920250)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (80076)

1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (64099076) **1.50 Hawkeye** (s) (1157250)

2.35 Holiday (r) (Ceefax) (s) (4243453)

3.05 Timekeepers. Quiz (s) (5459705)

3.30 Moomin (1753076) **3.50 Bitsa** (s) (1766540) **4.10 Rugrats** (r) (s) (9516863) **4.35 Agent Z and the Penguin from Mars** (Ceefax) (s) (9713705) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (4188927) **5.10 Blue Peter** (Ceefax) (s) (7339618)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (476182) **N.I.: 5.35** Inside Ulster

6.00 Six O'Clock New (Ceefax) and weather (811)

6.30 Regional News magazines (163) **N.I.: 6.30** Neighbours **6.57** Inside Ulster News

7.00 This Is Your Life. Presented by Michael Aspel (Ceefax) (s) (3095)

7.30 May to December. Age-gap romantic comedy starring Anton Rodgers and Lesley Dunlop (r). (Ceefax) (s) (347)

8.00 How Do They Do That? The secrets of film and television revealed and achievements from the fields of sport, medicine, science and entertainment (Ceefax) (s) (719927)

8.50 Points of View. Anne Robinson presents viewers's opinions on BBC programmes (Ceefax) (s) (762453)

8.55 Party Political Broadcast: By the Liberal Democrats (761724)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (2960)

9.30 Hetty Wainthropp Investigates. Widdershins. Hetty is drawn to a small country village by the apparent suicide of Robert's uncle. All is not what it seems. Something evil caused the old man's death. With Patricia Routledge (979989)

10.20 Sportsnight. With Des Lynam. Featuring highlights of the European Figure Skating Championships and an interview with the England cricket captain, Mike Atherton, who reflects on the recent tour of South Africa and looks ahead to the World Cup. Also, news of tonight's football international between Italy and Wales in Terni (s) (5369328)

11.30 FILM: Lethal Error (1991) starring Denise Nicholas. A murder mystery based on a true story. Elizabeth Sturgis must find the means to free her son, who stands accused of murder with the prosecutor demanding the death penalty. Directed by Susan Rohrer (57095) **WALES: 11.30** Bowls (674637) **12.10am** Film: Lethal Error (2959106) **1.40** News headlines and weather (2930699)

1.00am Weather (4430449)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. VideoPlus+ can be used with most videos. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. For more details call VideoPlus on 0839 121204 (calls cost 39p/min cheap rate, 49p/min at other times) or write to VideoPlus+, Acornex Ltd, 5 Ivory House, Plantation Wharf, London SW11 3TN. VideoPlus+ (™), PlusCode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd

BBC2

6.00am Business: The Gender Business (78328) **6.30** Outward Bound (40960)

7.00 Breakfast News. (Ceefax) (6048095)

7.15 Lassie (r) (3162873) **7.40 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles** (r) (7226328) **8.05 Run the Risk** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (5279144)

8.35 The Record (s) (9460279) **9.00 Holiday Outings.** Le Touquet (r) (6310989)

9.05 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, **10.00-10.30** Playdays (6957279)

2.00 Wishing (r) (s) (86418415)

2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (5493328). **WALES: 2.10-3.00** Bowls (5493328) **4.00-6.00** Bowls (5124)

3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather; **Westminster with Nick Ross.** (Ceefax) (7116892) **3.55 News** (Ceefax) and weather (5172415)

4.00 Today's the Day. History quiz (s) (796)

4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (960)

5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Fertility clinic scandals. (Ceefax) (s) (7764892)

5.40 A Week to Remember (b/w) (258873)

5.50 A Different Country Practice. The work of the Airedale NHS Trust (192279)

6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. Science-fiction adventure series starring Patrick Stewart. (Ceefax) (s) (419250)

6.45 The O Zone. Pop music magazine (411076). **WALES: 6.45** Delia Smith's Winter Collection (326502) **7.15-9.30** Soccer: Italy v Wales (80171182)

7.00 CHOICE **Video Nation.** Camcorder diaries (442908)

7.50 Top Gear Take Two. Steve Berry on a Honda Pacific Coast motorbike (547601)

8.00 University Challenge. The opening contest of the second round is between Middlesex University and Selwyn College, Cambridge. (Ceefax) (s) (7057)

8.30 Delia Smith's Winter Collection. Winter-warmers from China, Thailand and Japan. (Ceefax) (s) (9892)

9.00 Yes, Minister. Political comedy starring the late Paul Eddington as Jim Hacker, a malleable minister. With Nigel Hawthorne and Derek Fowlds (r). (Ceefax) (3142)

King Tupou IV of Tonga (9.30pm)

9.30 CHOICE **Under the Sun: Fit For a King** (Ceefax) (s) (960231)

10.20 What the Papers Say. With *The Observer*'s John Sweeney (s) (136569)

10.30 Political Broadcast: Liberal Democrats (Ceefax) (s) (224273)

10.35 Newsnight (Ceefax) (549182)

11.20 The Big Idea. Andrew Marr is joined by the philosopher Peter Singer, who believes now is the right time to endorse what he describes as a "Copernican revolution of ethics" (127569)

11.50 The Midnight Hour with Andrew Neil. Political chat (s) (652415)

12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

CHOICE

Video Nation: On the Job
BBC2, 7.00pm

Bruce Newman used to be a graphic designer. But he lost his job, his house was repossessed and he joined the alternative economy. He now stands in the middle of traffic jams, cleaning car windscreens. A fill-in job has lasted four years. Newman's is one of more than 30 stories of the British workplace in the 1990s, culled from the BBC's team of video diarists. Statistics quoted on the programme suggest that we are working longer, enjoying the work less than we used to and feeling less secure in our jobs. The average lunch hour has shrunk to 32 minutes and 14 per cent take no break at all. Among them is a Leicester businessman Paul Sood. He says he does not mind his wife giving him a packed lunch to take to work. He is less pleased when she turns up at the office to make sure he has eaten it.

Dispatches: Citizen Maxwell
Channel 4, 8.30pm

The end of the trial of the Maxwell brothers has left the media free to resume their investigations into the life and the death of their father. Channel 4's contribution comes from Malcolm Brinkworth, a respected name in television documentary, and his lengthy film covers several lesser known aspects of Robert Maxwell including spy, diplomatic fixer and, allegedly, arms dealer. Brinkworth also returns to the puzzle of how Maxwell met his death. The captain of Maxwell's yacht speaks on camera for the first time but do not expect startling revelations. Maxwell's career as an agent for MI6, and his close contacts with the leaders of the old Soviet Union, are persuasively documented, as is his extraordinary role as confidant of presidents and premiers.

Hollywood Men: Desperately Seeking Success
ITV, 9.00pm

It is an axiom of this series that the worthier men of Hollywood, those who have achieved some sort of distinction on the cinema screen, will be comprehensively swamped by the other sort. Thus tonight's episode contains quotes from Alan Alda, Gene Wilder and Martin Sheen so brief that if you blink you miss them, and endless contributions from denizens of the porn industry. The theme is fame, and how to achieve it. One of the surest ways, it seems, is to appear in a salacious court case. So forget Alda, Sheen and company. *Hollywood Men* is much more interested in Joey Buttafuoco, a convicted rapist, and John Wayne Bobbitt, whose manhood was sensationally detached by a furious wife. Both men became celebrities, and for considerably longer than Andy Warhol's 15 minutes.

Under the Sun: Fit For a King
BBC2, 9.30pm

The anthropology series visits Tonga, where King Tupou IV is about to celebrate his 75th birthday and the 25th anniversary of his reign. Tonga was dubbed by Captain Cook the friendly isles and rarely makes the international headlines, though the king has featured in *The Guinness Book of Records* as the world's heaviest monarch. In an attempt to discard this unwanted distinction, he has slimmed down from 33 stone to a trimmer 20. The royal weight aside, the film is a portrait of a feudal society which democratic ideas have so far barely touched. The justification is that the system works and the people seem happy. There are dissenting voices but not many. Most of the islanders are only too glad to pay tribute to their monarch, enriching the birthday feast with their pigs, giant yams and a juicy white grub called ofato.

Peter Waymark

HTV

6.00am GMTV (2508892)

9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (4051786)

9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (6934328)

10.00 The Time . . . the Place (s) (1708724)

10.35 This Morning(57949434)

12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (6083873)

12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (6397095)

12.55 Shortland Street (s) (9373989)

1.20 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (32725960)

1.50 Home and Away (Teletext) (76855960)

2.20 Chain Letters (Teletext) (s) (18707279)

2.50 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (4234705)

3.20 News (Teletext) (2986279)

3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (2978250)

3.30 Potamus Park (s) (2709637) **3.40 Wizadora** (r) (s) (7383960) **3.50 The Twisted Tales of Felix the Cat** (s) (7389144) **4.00 Terror Towers** (Teletext) (s) (502) **4.30 Delta Wave** (Teletext) (s) (786) **5.00 Garfield and Friends** (4173095)

5.10 A Country Practice (s) (6857960)

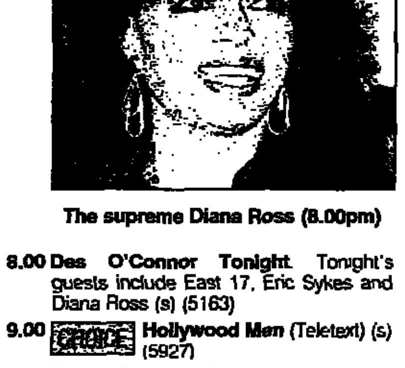
5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (992705)

6.00 Home and Away. Steven is determined to continue teaching(r) (Teletext) (472927)

6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (933415)

7.00 Wish You Were Here . . .? Judith Chalmers visits a caravan park near Poole where she goes bowling and tries to sail (Teletext) (8163)

7.30 Coronation Street. Percy finds himself the centre of attention and Alison tries to persuade Ken to take Denise back (Teletext) (415)



The supreme Diana Ross (8.00pm)

8.00 Des O'Connor Tonight. Tonight's guests include East 17, Eric Sykes and Diana Ross (s) (5163)

9.00 CHOICE **Hollywood Men** (Teletext) (s) (5927)

10.00 Party Political Broadcast by the Liberal Democrats (114347)

10.05 News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (894811)

10.35 Regional News (Teletext) (731786)

10.45 FILM: Guns of the Magnificent Seven (1969) starring George Kennedy, Monte Markham and James Whitmore. Third in the series of 'Seven' westerns. This one sees the gunslingers attempting to free a Mexican revolutionary from a guarded fort. Directed by Paul Wendkos (300732)

12.45am God's Gift(331057)

1.45 Dear Nick (2622670)

2.40 Bushell on the Box (r) (s) (2266090)

3.10 Murder, She Wrote (r) (3374090)

4.05 Coach (s) (18439187)

4.30 The Time . . . the Place (r) (s) (83212)

5.00 The Village Show (35187)

5.30 Morning News (53496)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except:

6.25pm-7.00 Wales Tonight (933415)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.55 Chain Letters. Word game with cash prizes, presented by Vince Henderson (6372786)

1.25 Coronation Street (32724231)

1.55-2.25 Home and Away (76854231)

2.25 Vanessa (18799250)

2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (1468927)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (6857960)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (78144)

10.45 Short Story Cinema: A Hard Rain (693786)

11.15 Oasis - Live by the Sea (150502)

12.20am Pop Profile (9147922)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55pm Home and Away (6372786)

1.25 Chain Letters (32724231)

1.55 A Country Practice (64087231)

2.20 Vanessa (18707279)

2.50-3.20 Our House (4234705)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6857960)

6.25 Central News and Weather (457618)

6.55-7.00 Life Line (210434)

10.45 Central Sports Special (660618)

11.45 Tales from the Crypt. Two tales of terror — *Curiosity Kills* and *Death of Some Salesman* starring Margot Kidder and Tim Curry (659502)

2.40am The Good Sex Guide... Late (7191090)

3.35 Jones and Jury (66570854)

4.00 Jobfinder (7992632)

5.20 Asian Eye (3503632)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 Chain Letters (6372786)

1.25 Home and Away (32724231)

1.55 A Country Practice (64087231)

2.20 Vanessa (18707279)

2.50-3.20 Special Babies (4234705)

5.10 Home and Away (6857960)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (279)

6.30-7.00 Birdwatch with Chris Packham (231)

10.45 The Meridian Match (660618)

11.45 Tales from the Crypt (876750)

12.10am Short Story Cinema (4687941)

5.00 Freescreen (35187)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (65417) **9.00 Fifteen to One** (43960) **9.30 Schools 12.00 House to House** (63724) **12.30pm Wowser** (91095) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (73786) **1.30 FILM: The Pied Piper** (29993705) **3.05 Terrytoons** (2963328) **3.10 The Montel Williams Show** (5564076)**4.00 Backdate** (144) **4.30 Ride On** (328) **5.00 5 Pump: Rownd a Rownd** (3796908) **5.15 5 Pump: Ffeil** (4150144) **5.30 Countdown** (908) **6.00 Newyddion** (838569) **6.15 Heno** (674250) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (750637) **7.25 Dim Ond Celf** (480322) **8.00 Dim Cliw Cyfres Newydd**(5453) **8.30 Newyddion** (4960) **9.00 Y Parc** (3569) **10.00 Brookside** (64453) **10.30 ER** (19347) **11.30 Cybill** (55892) **12.00 FILM: Avanti** (36869748)

CHANNEL 4

6.30am Think Tank (r) (Teletext) (s) (5688057)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (65417)

9.00 Fifteen to One (r) (Teletext) (s) (43960)

9.30 Schools: Out for Adventure (3192144) **9.45** Book Box (3120927) **10.00** Stage Two Science (7190144) **10.15** The French Programme (1354637) **10.35** Irish Writers (4134328) **10.55** Film and Video Showcase (1747637) **11.07** Schools at Work (9264415) **11.15** The Mix (8418892) **11.30** Rat-a-tat-tat (5100076) **11.45** First Edition (5198231)

12.00 House to House with Sheena McDonald (63724)

12.30pm Sesame Street with Robin Williams (75250) **1.30 Madeline** (r) (76877182) **1.55 Way to the Top.** Puppet animation (9599163)

2.05 Journey into a Lost Japan (r). (Teletext) (49124637)

2.35 FILM: Terror in a Texas Town (1958, b/w) starring Sterling Hayden as a seaman who sets out to avenge the murder of his farmer father. Directed by Joseph H. Lewis (5523095)

4.00 Backdate (Teletext) (s) (144)

4.30 Countdown (Teletext) (s) (328)

5.00 Ricki Lake: Cat Fights (Teletext) (s) (7912182) **5.45 Terrytoons** (266892)

6.00 The Crystal Maze. Another chance to see Edward Tudor-Pole guiding a team of intrepid contestants through the four time zones to the ultimate goal (r) (Teletext) (s) (76786)

7.00 Channel 4 News and weather. (Teletext) (152873)

7.55 The Slot. Viewers' video soapbox (892778)

8.00 Brookside (Teletext) (s)(5453)

8.30 CHOICE **Dispatches: Citizen Maxwell** (48434)

Anthony Edwards stars (10.00pm)

10.00 ER. Carter fills in for an injured Benton while Greene (Anthony Edwards) supports the unpopular Weaver and with Chloe gone, Lewis's work suffers as she tries to care for the baby herself (Teletext) (s) (3328)

11.00 Friends. While the men go off to a hockey game, the women spy on one of their neighbours (r) (s) (7415)

11.30 Moviewatch Film magazine (s) (108279)

12.05am The Best of Aykroyd, Belushi and Chase. A profile of John Belushi, who died of a drugs overdose (2669458)

1.20 Made in the USA with Laurie Pike (r) (1133458)

2.05 FILM: The Calendar (1948, b/w). British comedy-thriller starring John McCallum as a racehorse owner who is bailed out by his trainer when accused of pulling a horse. Directed by Arthur Crabtree (2319800) Ends at **3.25**

SATELLITE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE

7.00am The DJ Kat Show (88415) **8.30** Press Your Luck (89786) **9.00** Court TV (46386) **9.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (84521) **10.30** Concentration (92250) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (22076) **12.00** Jeopardy! (83502) **12.30pm** Murphy Brown (11873) **1.00** The Waltons (16328) **2.00** Geraldo (87415) **3.00** Court TV (4502) **3.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (2334347) **4.15** Undun (4510502) **5.00** Star Trek (9182) **6.00** The Simpsons (2873) **6.30** Jeopardy! (6452) **7.00** LAPD (9811) **7.30** M*A*S*H (2637) **8.00** Earth 2 (79811) **9.00** Picket Fences (56347) **10.00** Star Trek: The New Generation (69434) **11.00** Law and Order (43569) **12.00** Late Show with David Letterman (6902651) **12.45am** The Untouchables (6298854) **1.30** SIBS (42583) **2.00** Hit Mix Long Play

SKY NEWS

News on the hour

6.00am Sunrise (2980724) **10.30** ABC Nightline (90892) **1.30** CBS News (18786) **2.30** Parliament Live (9786) **3.00** Sky News (2144) **3.30** Parliament Live (4231) **6.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton (4095) **8.30** Newsmaker (2908) **11.30** CBS News (33340) **12.30am** ABC World News Tonight (47361) **1.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton Replay (40125) **2.30** Target (39477) **3.30** Parliament Replay (80729) **4.30** CBS News (15941) (84477) **5.30** ABC World News Tonight

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Stage Door (1937) (74786) **8.00 Gold Diggers of 1933 (1933)** (83845) **10.00 Dragonworld (1993)** (22982) **12.00 French Silk (1993)** (91618) **2.00pm The Perfectionist (1986)** (50766) **4.00 Eleven Harrowhouse (1974)** (7106) **6.00 Dragonworld (1993)** (35637) **7.30 E! News Week in Review** (7705) **8.00 Mother's Boys (1993)** (75385) **10.00 The Ballad of Little Jo (1993)** (38434) **12.00 Wild Orchid 2 (1991)** (343090) **1.50am For the Love of Nancy (1994)** (1938274) **3.20 Reunion (1989)** (62729583)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm The Gay Divorcee (1934) (2328) **6.00 Two Flags West (1950)** (45892) **8.00 F/X - Murder by Illusion (1986)** (57637) **10.00 Marathon Man (1976)** (72111540) **12.10am The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975)** (339922) **1.50-3.50 The Man Who Loved Women (1977)**

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am We're No Angels (1954) (72328) **8.00 Robotix: The Movie (1993)** (83827) **10.00 Show Business (1944)** (13231) **12.00 Where Are My Children? (1994)** (82960) **2.00pm The Happy Thieves (1962)** (58328) **4.00 Robotix: The Movie (1993)** (8328) **6.00 My Family Treasure (1993)** (61892) **8.00 The Paper (1994)** (73637) **10.00 Cyborg 2 (1993)** (555989) **11.40 A Bronx Tale (1993)** (42779366) **1.45am Knightriders (1981)** (781403) **3.45 Silhouette (1994)** (96970274)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.

6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree (31723076) **6.30** Fraggle Rock (56311818) **7.00** Winnie the Pooh (40672845) **7.30** Ducktales (65422142) **8.00** Chip 'n' Dales (49672231) **8.30** Wonderland (49571502) **9.00** Disney (31732724) **10.00** Under the Umbrella Tree (26321750) **10.30** Fraggle Rock (49591366) **11.00** Muppet Babies (89850250) **11.30** Pooh Corner (63868279) **12.00** Quack Attack (49582818) **12.30pm** Dumbo's Circus (96640750) **1.00** Adventures in Wonderland (41022386) **1.30** FILM: Pablo and the Dancing Chihuahua (99383521) **3.00** The Railway Dragon (20989724) **3.30** Winnie the Pooh (76836958) **4.00** Quack Attack (91686255) **4.30** Ducktales (95266219) **5.00** Chip 'n' Dales (20991569) **5.30** Danger Bay (77286499) **6.00** Tarzan (84931322) **6.30** Dinosaurs (90236714) **7.00** Faerie Tale Theatre (20879569) **8.00** Sinbad (20980453) **8.30** The Torkelsons (20989960) **9.00-10.00** Dreams of Flight —

EUROSPORT

7.30am Figure Skating (19144) **9.00** Basketball (66860) **9.30** Euroski (10279) **10.00** Tennis (7917085) **5.00** Live Figure Skating (147960) **8.00** Figure Skating (14255) **9.00** Tennis (20569) **10.00-12.30am** Football (668618)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Sports Centre (70637) **7.30** Racing News (59144) **8.00** American Sports Cavalcade (25989) **9.00** Aerobics (71892) **9.30** Sports Unlimited (37637) **10.30** British Rally Championships (77076) **11.00** The Footballer's Football Show (68892) **12.00** Aerobics (68328) **12.30pm** International Motorsport (17298) **2.30** Snowboard Tour (9144) **3.00** European Masters Pool (412786) **6.00** Sports Centre (4683) **6.30** Rugby (4453) **7.00** Boots 'n' All Special (35318927) **8.55** Sports Centre (927328) **9.00** Golf USA - Live (18724) **11.00** Sports Centre (79347) **11.30** Futbol Mundial (28786) **12.00** Inside the PGA Tour (32941) **12.30am** Boots 'n' All Special (89632) **2.30** Sports Centre (11729)

SKY SPORTS GOLD

10.00pm Rugby Hall of Famer Jean Pierre Rives (8057809) **10.30** World Cup Classics Scotland Vs Holland 1978 (4439927) **12.00** Blood Sweat and Glory (7129019) **12.30-1.00am** Second Innings Michael Slater (3787583)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00am Living World **5.00** Kenneth Copeland **5.30** Kidz TV **5.45** General Christian Entertainment **6.15** Benny Hinn/This is Your Day **6.45-7.00** Music

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (7167892) **7.55** As the World Turns (9892811) **8.50** Peyton Place (4866207) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (7560250) **10.10-11.00** Another World (5925881)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (4387892) **11.30** Video Trips (4388521) **12.00** UK Today (3902750) **12.30pm** Frugal Gourmet (5738960) **1.00** Around the World in 30 Minutes(7377569) **1.30** Travel Guide (5737231) **2.00** Roads to Freedom (8880057) **2.30** Discover Your World (2318724) **3.00** Getaway (8892892) **3.30-4.00** Kids Down Under (2920569)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Our Century: 1968-1980 Peace and Love (4378144) **5.00** Memories of 1977 (8883144) **6.00-7.00** Biography: Houdini (5753279)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

7.00pm Battlestar Galactica (4762057) **8.00** Back to the Future Part II (4775521) **10.00** Close (2562188) **1.00am** Battlestar Galactica (2003748) **2.00-4.00** Back to the Future Part III (5617038)

Def Leppard chooses Ten of the Best (VH-1, 1.00am)

TLC

9.00am The Joy of Painting (6372540) **9.30** Grow with Joe (7729892) **10.00** Two's Country (7129163) **10.30** Our House (6378724) **11.00** The Painted House (5752705) **11.30** Running Repairs (5753434) **12.00** Julia Child (6389076) **12.30pm** Frugal Gourmet cooks Italian (7730908) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (8895960) **1.30** On the Edge (7739279) **2.00** Dunbar (2256347) **2.30** Secret Gardens (1526811) **3.00** Two's Country (2268182) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (1505328)

UK GOLD

7.05am Angels (4627778) **7.30** Neighbours (8817182) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (6368347) **8.30** EastEnders (6367618) **9.00** The Bill (6381298) **9.30** The Sullivans (7721250) **10.00** All Creatures Great and Small (8813366) **11.00** Juliet Bravo (8893502) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (6361434) **12.30pm** Neighbours (7732366) **1.00** EastEnders (6804618) **1.30** The Bill (7731637) **2.00** The Sullivans (61963163) **2.25** Are You Being Served? (2102366) **3.00** Angels (2260540) **3.30** Eldorado (1507786) **4.00** Casualty (35381057) **5.05** Larry Grayson's Generation game (77281434) **6.15** Kenny's Comic Cuts (8630250) **6.25** EastEnders (4195124) **7.00** Eldorado (2252521) **7.30** Happy Ever After (1516434) **8.00** FILM: Hot Enough for June (4548637) **10.00** The Bill (9562076) **10.35** Top of the Pops (7300163) **11.20** Special Branch (8230705) **12.25am** Everybody's Equal (4310274) **12.55** Public Eye (9980545) **1.55** Triangle (95975458) **2.20** Shopping

TCC

6.00am Swan's Crossing (96786) **6.30** Pugwall's Summer (14618) **7.00** Ready or Not (46705) **7.30** California Dreams (58540) **8.00** Sweet Valley High (25637) **8.30** Tiny TCC (55694540) **12.35pm** Tiny TCC (49511057) **2.30** Jim Henson's Animal Show (1328) **2.30** Jim Henson's Animal Show (1328) **3.00** Sonic The Hedgehog (4786) **3.30** The New Pink Panther Show (6373) **4.00** California Dreams (5906) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (4892)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Henry's Cat (5209786) **6.15** Blue. Child of the Earth (622163) **6.45** Toucan Tec (9950279) **7.00** Batfink (7002960) **7.05** Grimmy (6776434) **7.45** Rugrats (627618) **8.15** Aaahh!!! Real Monsters (2998540) **8.30** Rocko's Modern Life (88182) **9.00** Alvin and the Chipmunks (79434) **9.30** Pee-Wee (16453) **10.00** Banana Sandwich (86298) **11.00** Children's BBC (66434) **12.00** Magic Bus (99298) **12.30pm** Grimmy (27569) **1.00** Global Guts (60250) **1.30** Visionaries (19540) **2.00** Children's BBC (21873) **3.00** Pet Shop (1298) **3.30** Mighty Max (2231) **4.00** The Ferals (1366) **4.30** Rugrats (9750) **5.00** Sister Sister (3415) **5.30** Wishbone (1502) **6.00** Ren and Stimpy (8415) **6.30** Pete and Pete (2095) **7.00** The Odyssey (3279) **7.30-8.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (8279)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Bush Tucker Man (1517163) **4.30** Fire (1513347) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (2270927) **5.30** Terra X (1537927) **6.00** Invention (1527540) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (7922732) **7.30** Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe (1514076) **8.00** Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious Universe (2269811) **8.30** Time Travellers (2255618) **9.00** Warriors (4555927) **10.00** Classic Wheels (4525786) **11.00-12.00** Fangs! Wild Dog Dingo (8812637)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: Plan 9 from Outer Space (6519811) **1.30pm** Death Valley Days (7726705) **2.00** The Saint (7124618) **3.00** The Buccaneers (2262908) **3.30** The Adventures of William Tell (1525182) **4.00** FILM: Donovan's Brain (6509434) **5.30** Honey West (1524453) **6.00** Robin Hood (1521366) **6.30** UFO (3322778) **7.30** The Protectors (1501502) **8.00** The Saint (4539980) **9.00** Sapphire and Steel (5769095) **9.30** Superman (7747298) **10.00-12.00** FILM: Revenge of the Nerds III (5750347)

PARAMOUNT

8.00pm Entertainment Tonight (2927) **8.30** The Odd Couple (1434) **9.00** American Dreamer (65144) **9.30** Laverne and Shirley (85205) **10.00** Entertainment Tonight (90927) **10.30** Frontline (76347) **11.00** Nightstand (87927) **12.00** I Love Lucy (30583) **12.30am** The Odd Couple (90477) **1.00** American Dreamer (49922) **1.30** Laverne and Shirley (95699) **2.00** Entertainment Tonight (23564) **2.30** Frontline (42699) **3.00-4.00** Nightstand (53477)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (5265163) **7.00** Kilroy (9387095) **8.00** Esther (9906960) **8.30** Embroidery (9907231) **9.00** Food and Drink (3846076) **9.35** Kate and Allie (2043989) **10.05** The Jerry Springer Show (8087298) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (8499347) **11.55** Brookside (6021434) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (4406279) **1.25** Crosswits (1257322) **2.00** Agony Hour (2665415) **3.00** Live at Three (1692076) **4.00** Infatuation UK (1137347) **4.30** Crosswits (3729908) **5.05** Lingo (82109328) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (1140811) **6.00** Bewitched (1147724) **6.30** Brookside (2746057) **7.05** Delia Smith's Cookery Course 2 (2589298) **7.40** The Joker's Wild (1640540) **8.05** The Young and the Restless (5760811) **9.00** Cagney and Lacey (8360279) **10.00** Charlie's Angels (8363366) **11.00-12.00** The Erogenous Zone (6376057)

THE FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Black Beauty (9231) **5.30** Tintin (625521) **5.55** Batman (874163) **6.30** Catchphrase (6637) **7.00** Roll with It (9095) **7.30** The Fall Guy (32521) **8.30** Duty Free (7250) **9.00** Ruth Rendell (39231) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (49618) **11.00** Neon Rider (55453) **12.00** The Fall Guy (80699) **1.00am** Batman (70816) **1.30** Rhoda (12995) **2.00** Big Brother Jake (69380) **2.30** Neon Rider (38767) **3.30** Rhoda (79767) **4.00** Big Brother Jake (50632) **4.30-5.00** Black Beauty (91309)

MTV

6.30am The Grind (16076) **7.00** 3 from 1 (9697328) **7.15** Awake on the Wildside (3423673) **8.00** Music Videos (871540) **11.00** Soul (43618) **12.00** Greatest Hits (37960) **1.00pm** Music Non-stop (50120298) **2.45** 3 from 1 (8448366) **3.00** Cinematic (1131724) **3.15** Hanging Out (1756811) **4.00** News (8294927) **4.15** Hanging Out (8277250) **4.30** Dial (8250) **5.00** The Zig and Zag Show (3989) **5.30** Boom! in the Afternoon (7503) **6.00** Hanging Out (33144) **7.00** MTV's Greatest Hits (42705) **8.00** The Worst of Most Wanted (7873) **8.30** Unplugged with Stone Temple Pilots (64705) **9.30** Beavis and Butt-head (45989) **10.00** News (83605) **10.15** Cinematic (857540) **10.30** The State (29601) **11.00** The End? (73618) **12.30am** Videos (9875748)

VH-1

7.00am Power Breakfast (7369540) **9.00** Café VH-1 (8230786) **12.00** Heart and Soul (5758453) **1.00pm** Vinyl Years (5735873) **2.00** Morten Harket (8801827) **3.00** Into the Music (2851892) **6.00** UB40 (5755637) **7.00** VH-1 to You (4764415) **8.00** Wednesday Review (8802279) **8.30** Madonna (8881786) **9.00** Jonathan King (4793927) **10.00** Vinyl Years (4763786) **11.00** Tommy Vance (8045182) **1.00am** Def Leppard (2005106)

CMT EUROPE

Country music from **6am** to **7pm**, including **5.00pm** Saturday Nite Dance Ranch **6.00-7.00** Big Ticket

ZEE TV

7.00am Asian Morning (86694502) **8.30** Kahekashan (97351750) **9.00** Start Sound (44863582) **9.30** Urdu Serial Kohar (83386873) **10.30** Namaste India (21640146) **11.00** Tara (42316521) **12.00** Dekh Bhai Dekh (89256386) **12.30pm** Manasi (53899637) **1.00** Urdu FILM Hulchal (62113279) **4.00** Zee Presents (42348347) **5.00** Zee Zone (37930927) **5.30** Bengali Serial (11796786) **6.00** Campus (11726927) **6.30** Zee and U (11717279) **7.00** Aap Ki Adalat (37910163) **7.30** Banegi Apni Baat (11706163) **8.00** News (37923811) **8.30** Hindi FILM My Love (53597502) **11.30** Bhangra Revisited

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.

7.00pm Royal Wedding (1951) (66872683) **9.00 Ryan's Daughter (1970)** (86082366) **12.35am A Very Private Affair (1962)** (90005767) **2.15 Light in the Piazza (1962)**

CNN/QVC

CNN provides 24-hour news and QVC is the home shopping channel.

PERFORMANCE

7.00pm Rossini's L'Occasione Fa Il Ladro **9.00** Golden Age **11.00-2.00am** Mozart's Le Nozze Di Figaro

CHANNEL 1

6.30am Sports Page **9.30** Ve Day **10.30** Interactive **11.30** Colour Supplement **12.30pm** Paint It Red **1.30** Ve Day **2.30** A-Z of Food **3.30** Planet Fashion **4.30** Interactive **5.30** Colour Supplement **6.30** Sports Page **7.30** Paint It Red **8.30** The Real Collector's Guide **9.30** X-treme Living **10.30** Paint It Red **11.30** Sports Page

RACING 43
INJURED MAGUIRE MAY BE FORCED TO MISS CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL

SPORT

SWIMMING 45
FOSTER HOPING TO PULL OFF A MASTER STROKE

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24 1996

Sánchez Vicario succumbs to indefatigable teenager in Australian Open

Rubin reaches heights to pass endurance test

FROM STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN MELBOURNE

THE apparently indefatigable Chanda Rubin is working overtime at collecting grand-slam records. Still only 19, she has already distinguished herself as the winner of the longest women's singles matches to be staged at the Wimbledon and Australian Open championships.

The two demonstrations of durability both built up to similarly prolonged apogees but, in the wider context, the latter example was significantly more rewarding. In suppressing the obstinate Arantxa Sánchez Vicario here last night, Rubin, of the United States, earned a semi-final appearance against the top seed, Monica Seles.

On the biggest stages, Rubin does not deal in sentences or even chapters, but epics. In last year's French Open, she was 5-0 and 40-0 down in the final set against Jana Novotna and still found a way to extricate herself from the perilous third-round position, saving nine match points in the process.

The next month, at Wimbledon, she tangled with Patricia Hy-Boulais for 3¾ hours, the longest women's duel in any grand-slam event. She prevailed 7-6, 6-7, 17-15, the final set being unprecedented at the championships for its duration and the number of games.

Here in Melbourne, the day after Brenda Schultz-McCarthy had delivered the fastest recorded service by a woman, the men were again overshadowed. Improbably, the thunder was stolen from Andre Agassi and Jim Courier as rain seeped into the first set of their delayed quarter-final and play was suspended at midnight.

Results 45

Rubin and Sánchez Vicario had started their elongated journey five hours earlier. The aggressor against the counter-puncher, the most improved youngster against a member of the established elite, they were still locked together after five different shifts of line judges had been subjected to quizzical glances and stares registering disbelief.

Both players aimed for the extremities of the court and Rubin, responsible either for winning or losing the vast majority of the points, largely dictated the course of the match. She seemed to be in control of it, too, when she took five successive games to lead by a set and 2-0.

However, her forehand, a penetrative weapon that Seles will seek to avoid, began to misfire, and she yielded six games in a row. So to the third set, which may haunt Sánchez Vicario for as long as the pivotal, 22-minute game against Steffi Graf in the Wimbledon final last year.

From 4-1 down, the Spaniard recovered to level, saved two match points at 4-5 and served for the match at both 6-5 and 8-7. She held two points to break at 8-8 and, crucially, four more at 10-10. Thereafter, she was on the defensive and had to save another two match points at 13-14.

The strain of having to serve to stay in contention eventually told. With a forehand volley, her 68th winner to accompany 96 unforced errors, Rubin converted her sixth match point to go into the last four 6-4, 2-6, 16-14 as well as into another page of the record books.

Never before at the Australian Open has a women's match lasted as long as three hours and 33 minutes or contained as many as 48 games or featured a final set of 30 games, which alone were spread across two hours and 22 minutes. Seles and Michael Chang together took less time to beat Iva Majoli and Mikael Tillstrom respectively.

Rubin and Sánchez Vicario, incidentally, were far from breaking the overall record. That belongs to Virginia Nelson-Dunbar, who took 6½ hours to beat Jean Hepner, 6-4, 7-6, 12 years ago. Then, one point in the tie-break, a rally of 643 shots, took 29 minutes to complete.

By coincidence, because both of their usual doubles partners were absent, Rubin and Sánchez Vicario agreed to play together and have reached the quarter-final. There they are scheduled to play the top seeds, Natasha Zvereva and Gigi Fernandez, in the early hours of this morning. Agassi and Courier will resume then, too.

A year ago, Courier, beating Pete Sampras in emotional distress at the thought that his coach might be terminally ill, suggested that they "finish this in the morning".

His compatriot insisted on continuing and won a quarter-final voted by viewers of a cable television network as the most memorable sporting event of 1995.

Sánchez Vicario, left, congratulates Rubin at the end of their epic quarter-final. Photograph: Steve Holland

JULIAN HERBERT

Rubin is a study in concentration on her way to victory over Sánchez Vicario yesterday

Dourthe offers no excuse for kicking Clarke in Paris match

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE France team management will determine tomorrow the disciplinary action to be taken against Richard Dourthe, the Dax centre, who admitted yesterday that he had been "really stupid" to kick Ben Clarke on the head during the five nations' championship match between France and England in Paris last Saturday.

"I have no excuses," Dourthe said. "The English were pressing really hard then and I had a lot of adrenalin going. The ball wasn't released when he went to ground in a ruck and I just gave him [Clarke] a poke. I know I shouldn't have done it and I'm going to have to pay for it."

Further scrutiny of the match video suggests that Dourthe, 21, was none too careful with his boot when Steve Ojomoh was tackled, and subsequently penalised, late in the game. The young Frenchman pointed out that he, himself, finished the match with long scratches down his face after being walked on.

When the selection panel meet in Toulouse, Jo Maso, the manager, is expected to press for a one-month suspension, which would keep Dourthe out of the games with Scotland and Ireland. "I condemn brutality and he will be sanctioned," Jean-Claude Skrela, the France coach, said. "He had been warned beforehand to keep his temper under control."

Dourthe said: "I will try hard to regain my place and show the selectors by playing blamelessly that I'm not the bad boy I've heard I am these past few days."

The incident does highlight both the use and abuse of video evidence. If match tapes are examined hard enough, it would be possible, in a close-fought, forward-dominated game, to find moments that reflected little credit on either team. England, it may be remembered, took no action against Clarke after a stamping incident against Ireland last season had earned him the first yellow card in international rugby. On that occasion, the excuse was that the referee had seen, and dealt with, the matter.

England will name today an extended squad to prepare for the game against Wales at Twickenham on February 3, confirming the match XV only on Sunday. Wales, meanwhile, have included Neil Jenkins in their five nations' squad of 24, but find no place for Jonathan Davies, despite a vigorous campaign waged on his behalf since his return from rugby league.

Mark Ring, the Cardiff centre who played alongside Davies for Wales in the 1980s, was swift to criticise the selectors, though they have quite properly voted for the young men who will take Wales forward rather than Davies, 33, whose form and future prospects are so limited. Jenkins, now recovered from a broken collar-bone, may not be match-fit for selection against England, which would leave the stage to Arwel Thomas, of Bristol.

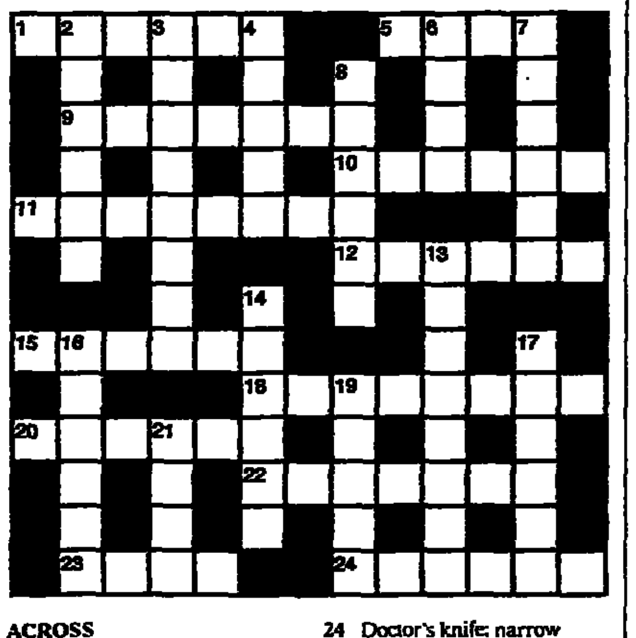
Brian Moore, who announced his retirement from international rugby in the autumn, yesterday said he is to take a break from the game and would not play for Harlequins again this season.

Dourthe: "really stupid"

WALES SQUAD: Backs: J Thomas (Llanelli), I Evans (Llanelli), W Proctor (Llanelli), S Hill (Cardiff), G Thomas (Bridgend), L Davies (Neath), M Wintle (Llanelli), N Davies (Llanelli), A Thomas (Bristol), N Jenkins (Pontypridd), A Moore (Cardiff), R Howley (Bridgend). Forwards: A Lewis (Cardiff), J Davies (Neath), L Mustoe (Cardiff), J Humphreys (Cardiff), G Jenkins (Swansea), G Llewellyn (Neath), D Jones (Cardiff), M Voyle (Newport), E Lewis (Cardiff), G Jones (Llanelli), H Taylor (Cardiff), S Williams (Neath).

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 686



ACROSS
- 1 Boringly out-of-date (3,3)
- 5 Head of kitchen (4)
- 9 Trustworthy, real (7)
- 10 Available to visitors (2,4)
- 11 Car-cooling, room-warming device (8)
- 12 Pannier (6)
- 15 Small piece to try (6)
- 18 Renounce rights, responsibility (8)
- 20 Animal relic (eg in rock) (6)
- 22 Daughter of Agamemnon; treacle (*anag.*) (7)
- 23 Crick; quirk; obstructive twist (4)
- 24 Doctor's knife; narrow window (6)

DOWN
- 2 Snarl-up (6)
- 3 Disadvantage (8)
- 4 Distort; wind (5)
- 6 Expectant silence (4)
- 7 Covered in brandy and set alight (6)
- 8 Close to (6)
- 13 Bony framework (8)
- 14 Assortment (6)
- 16 Windcheater (6)
- 17 Illusory sight (6)
- 19 Hard outer covering (5)
- 21 Extent, duration (4)

SOLUTION TO No 685
ACROSS: 1 Peak 3 Alfresco 9 Shape 10 Vanilla 11 Inherit 12 Watt 14 Hooray 16 Myself 18 Pied 19 Martial 22 Outdone 23 Spike 24 Buckshee 25 Knot
DOWN: 1 Pastiche 2 Anachronistic 4 Levity 5 Run away 6 Split decision 7 Oman 8 Lear 13 Affluent 15 Arduous 17 Impede 20 Rush 21 Bomb

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD NO 681
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND
ACROSS: 1 Lucifer 5 Comet 8 Plato 9 Wrong 'un 10 Inexperience 12 Embody 14 Apollo 17 Carpet-bagger 21 Looming 22 Pulse 23 Bathe 24 Amnesty
DOWN: 1 Lopsided 2 Crave 3 Footpad 4 Reward 5 Clone 6 Magical 7 Tank 11 Sobriety 13 Bear out 15 Playpen 16 Stigma 18 Pride 19 Gules 20 Slab

1st *PRIZE of* a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is R Raspin, Harrogate, North Yorkshire.
2nd *PRIZE* of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic network is B Sutton, London, N1. All flights subject to availability.

Irish move for Dalglish is blocked

BY PETER BALL

IRELAND'S hopes of finding a high-profile manager to replace Jack Charlton received a serious setback yesterday when Blackburn Rovers refused them permission to interview Kenny Dalglish, the club's director of football. Dalglish was the favourite on a shortlist of four.

"The Irish people contacted us last week with a request to speak to Kenny," Rob Coar, the Blackburn chairman, said yesterday. "Our response was that the approach was unwelcome."

Reports in Ireland last week suggested that Dalglish was reluctant to subject himself to a formal interview by the seven-man selection panel of the Football Association of Ireland (FAI). He was in Portugal playing golf yesterday, but the response of Sean Connolly, the chief executive of the FAI, possibly left the door ajar if the first round of interviews is unsuccessful. "He would prefer us not to speak with him at this stage," Connolly said.

Interviews with the other three on the list — Joe Kinnear, of Wimbledon, Mick McCarthy, of Millwall, and the former Sheffield United manager, Dave Bassett — are being conducted today and tomorrow. There were suggestions in Ireland yesterday that Ronnie Whelan, the player-manager of Southend and one of Ireland's outstanding players in recent years, might be added to the list, but the suggestion that George Best was a candidate was dismissed by FAI officials yesterday.

The loss of Dalglish, however, would be a severe blow, if he is to be totally discounted. After Charlton's resignation, Louis Kilcoyne, the chairman of the FAI, said that Charlton had taken the job onto a new footing "and we must have someone of high standing to take it from where he leaves it".

Their search, however, has so far been unsuccessful. Joe Royle and Howard Wilkinson were both refused permission to speak to the FAI by their clubs and Howard Kendall's decision to join Sheffield United in December was too recent for him to be considered.

Whoever does get the job will start the World Cup campaign in Liechtenstein, where it all began to go wrong for Charlton last June. Ireland's failure to win in Liechtenstein began the wretched run that ended their then strong hopes of qualifying for the European championship and brought about Charlton's demise.

Australia restore World Cup order

Alan Lee on the favourites' decision to take part, despite fears for their security

THE cricket World Cup, plagued by such a variety of problems that it seems destined to start before its organisers are ready, was saved from disintegration yesterday when the favourites, Australia, dispelled the fear that they would withdraw through concern over security arrangements.

It was only after a two-hour meeting in Adelaide between their 14 selected players and representatives of the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) that the participation of unarguably the strongest team in the world was confirmed. Whether they can play to their potential, with a number of their players worried by threatening letters from fanatics, remains to be seen.

The competition begins three weeks today when England, whose team arrived home yesterday from a South African tour unfairly condemned on the strength of two weeks of one-day cricket and one day of a Test series, play New Zealand in Ahmedabad. Many matters remain unresolved, including television coverage in India, but the tournament, spread across three countries and spanning five weeks, would have been entirely discredited had Australia pulled out.

This was a genuine possibility yesterday when the players had a prearranged meeting, after the announcement of a squad in which Michael Slater has regained his place at the expense of Dean Jones. The ACB had made it plain that no pressure would be exerted on the players to travel after Shane Warne, one of the competition's biggest drawcards, stated he was reconsidering the advisability of playing.

Warne is one recipient of the threatening letters, a legacy of the accusations made by three Australian players that they were offered bribes by Salim Malik, the former Pakistan captain, in October 1994. At the weekend, Warne admitted his fears that "a few hotheads might do something really nasty" during the World Cup.

Mark Taylor, the captain, said yesterday: "To a man, we are keen to represent Australia in the World Cup but we are also worried about security and that is why we are talking." After the players had agreed to go ahead with the tour, Graham Halbish, chief executive of the ACB, said that their concerns "have not and could not" be removed.

A sharp dip in relations between Australia and Sri Lanka during their present Test series has not helped the players' peace of mind. Australia are due to begin their World Cup campaign against Sri Lanka, where a state of emergency exists, in Colombo on February 17, but yesterday Halbish said that he expected the rifts to be healed before the final Test of the series begins in Adelaide tomorrow.

Warne: threatened

AUSTRALIA SQUAD: M Taylor (captain), I Healy, M Bevan, D Fleming, S Law, S Lee, C McDermott, G McGrath, R Ponting, P Reiffel, M Slater, S Warne, M Waugh, S Waugh

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